

# SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE MESSENGER

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Dear Ones,

MAILED JUNE 25, 2021

From *Undrowned* by Alexis Pauline Gumbs:

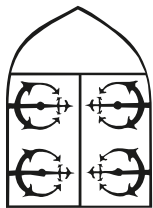
“Pantropical spotted dolphins are synchronized swimmers and community builders. They travel in pods of hundreds, but within the pods they organize into groups of twenty or less and time their diving and beautiful acrobatics to be exactly in sync. Out in the ocean, they participate in mobile interspecies collectives consisting of other dolphins, yellowfin tuna, and seabirds. Scientists have different theories about why they do this, most of which can be summarized in these words: *knowing who they’re with helps them know where they’re at and where they want to be.*”

We recognize that there may be some ambiguity in this vision that we are holding out to the community as we regather. That is because we can’t say that we know what the vision is – yet. This description of what collaboration looks like from the pantropical spotted dolphins helps us see that our hope is that we are learning (again) who we are and how we are doing and where we want to be next. Together.

Through a trauma-informed care lens, we need time to be seen and heard, share our griefs, express the places where we have felt abandoned or even betrayed by this pandemic, and listen for the possibilities of post-trauma growth. The complicated piece in all of this is that your clergy have gone through this, too, and are going through it now. We are drawing on the deep, interconnected relationships that were made possible by this pandemic and also holding those who experienced significant isolation. Our hope is that we can weave together these experiences into the building up of something profound and healing for us all.

This is why we’ve been emphasizing a time of rest and healing as we re-form as a whole community. Think about what we know about Resurrection. Did Jesus raise Lazarus to be exactly as he was before? In Jesus’ Resurrection, he is unrecognizable at first; his closest friends must retrain their senses to be able to see him as he has become and as they themselves are becoming as well.

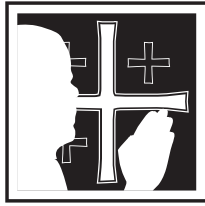
(continued on back page)



Main Office, <a href="mailto:office@stmaa.org">office@stmaa.org</a>	503/284-7141	Brian Fairbanks, Choir Director	Ext. 315
Chris Craun, Rector	Ext. 312	Hannah Brewer, Music Director/Organist	Ext. 315
James Joiner, Associate Rector	Ext. 313	Audrey Sackett, Associate for Music with Children	
Roberto Arciniega, Associate Rector	Ext. 316	Leslie Sackett, Associate for Children & Families	Ext. 318
Gloria Orellana, Office Administrator	Ext. 317	JT Quanbeck, Technology	Ext. 314
Jackie Van Anda, Bookkeeper	Ext. 320	Manuel Luna, Facilities Assistant	

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED . . .

- + for healing and comfort for **Joe Afryl, Jonna Alexander, Priscilla Hall, Ann Hargraves, Peggy Hartman, Sarah Kreinberg, Doris Lopez Chavez, Barack Holt Newton, Mark Jones, Caroline Litzenberger, Glen Martin, Anabertha Alvarado Martinez, Mitch Oglesby, Katie Reitel, Amy Swartz & Pat Wilson.**



*The following prayers have been published previously in the Weekly Messenger/eblast, but they are revisited here for those without access to the eblast or who otherwise missed them.*

- + in thanksgiving for the birth of **Ainsley Mae Page** and for her parents **Nick & Stacy Page**;
- + for the repose of the souls of **The Rev. Jack Hilyard**, who died on December 28; **Arls Fischer**, who also died on December 28; **Emily Lyon**, who died on January 2 and whose memorial service will be at St. Michael's on August 22; **Richard Walters**, who died on January 18; **Louise Lentz**, who died on January 22; **Margaret Martin**, who died on February 17; **Judith Montgomery**, who died on March 11; **Cliff Byers**, who died on March 13; **Cecil Dennis Andrew**, who died on March 15; **Lenora Tuomi**, who died on April 11; **Carol Lovelock**, who died on May 18; **Bob Ullman**, who died on May 19; and **Shirley Dunkel**, who died on June 20.

*Pour out your spirit of love upon all whom we love, especially those whom we cannot be with or see no longer, that we may find comfort and strength in our trust of your goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

## BOB ULLMAN MEMORIAL SERVICE



A memorial service is being planned for longtime parishioner Bob Ullman, who died on May 19, 2021. The service will take place on Saturday, August 14, 2021, at 1:00 pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend, Oregon. Please go to the Trinity website for further information as the date approaches for updates should the COVID situation change these plans.

If you are planning to attend the service, please RSVP to Sue Harper at [jharpoon@comcast.net](mailto:jharpoon@comcast.net) so that enough food can be prepared for the reception following the service.

— Arlene Ullman

## ASSOCIATE RECTOR



One of the primary sources we have for understanding how monastics engaged the practice of contemplative reading of scripture in the first centuries of the Church's life is called *The Ladder of Monks*, by a Carthusian named Guigo II. "The ladder" was the practice by which monks considered the text before them and examined it with study and questions and commentary, but then also began to leave their intellectual work behind for the spiritual work of contemplating what was beyond the power of their rational mind to understand. One of the rungs beyond meditation on the text was prayer or conversation with God about the text, and one of the rungs beyond that was silent time with God.

I believe that much of what we do together in Christian spiritual practice is a way of getting to this place, a place where we may dwell simply in the presence of God and be strengthened and grounded there for the work and play of living to which God calls us each day. But we often need a little help getting there. Our minds want something to chew on; our reason wishes to "understand" the God we're supposed to be speaking with. The "ladder of monks" was a way of combining all of these things, of sating our intellects with the desire we have for knowledge while releasing our hearts into a place with God where only faith and trust can go.



This is the core practice of our small groups which continue to meet on Zoom even as we turn to other, in-person meetings. It can inform everything we do together as a Church. At its core, the practice is to consider what lies before us—whether that be a passage of scripture, or an important decision, or a difficult feeling—to parse what we can of it and then, when our considerations are done, to turn to God in prayer and stillness. You can even do this right now, but it's pretty great in community, too.

Our next series of small groups will begin later this summer, and regular formation and education offerings will return in the fall. In the meantime, we can all climb the "ladder of monks" in our daily lives. We can remind ourselves that sometimes there comes a moment in our thinking or study or worries when it's time to put down whatever it is we're meditating on and simply be with God – God who is present in all things and holds us through all things, whether we understand it or not.

— James Joiner

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of the end of May, our pledge collections stand at 98% of what we budgeted; \$240,698 compared to our budget of \$246,665. I'm so thankful for the generosity of our parish. In preparing the budget, we had anticipated that the open offerings would continue at the same level as 2020, but we are seeing a shortfall here. The total to date for open offerings is at 50% percent of what we budgeted. We have been given \$9,335 versus a budget of \$18,750. As a result, total giving is at 95% of budget through the end of May.



In the expense category, two dynamics are at work. Our total property expenses have not been reduced and are 3%, or \$2,900, over budget as of the end of May. While our electricity bill is lower than our budgeted amount by \$500, we have seen a rise in our natural gas expenses, some security charges and ongoing additional maintenance.

The other dynamic is that we have been investing in technology to better livestream our services and meetings. To date, we have spent roughly \$6,000 more in computers and other technology than we had originally budgeted.

While we are over-budget on the expense side and under-budget on the giving side, we maintain a healthy balance in our savings accounts and endowment funds. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email or call me.

— Rick Parker, Treasurer, 503/312-3940 or jrpark120@gmail.com

## SENIOR WARDEN/ VESTRY UPDATE

By the time you read this, the St. Michael's Vestry will have held their first in-person meeting since the pandemic caused us to move to online meetings and services. I'm excited to see everyone in the flesh instead of in the *Brady Bunch* boxes of Zoom.

Since February, we have been exploring our personal and community relationship to change through a group book study of Adrienne Maree Brown's *Emergent Strategy*. This challenging book uses science and science fiction to explore how we can shape change for ourselves and our community. We will continue through the summer as we imagine how to regather safely as a parish community.



In the spring, the vestry also explored St. Michael's participation in a new family homeless shelter program run by Family Promise Metro East Chapter. After much prayer and deliberation, a task group of vestry members recommended that St. Michael's not commit to participating as either a host or support congregation because we had not yet begun to reopen our building, and the timeline for commitment was too short to ensure sufficient support from the parish community. As a vestry, we remain committed to supporting programs that help homeless individuals and are open to partnering with Family Promise in the future.

Cliff Fairley was re-elected to serve another term as Junior Warden. Cliff has been coordinating the work of remodeling the Gallery restroom; please see his update on page 4. While most of the project has been funded already through donations, additional gifts to the Building Fund are gratefully accepted. You can donate to the Building Fund online or contact the St. Michael's office for assistance.

— Stephanie English,  
Senior Warden

St Michael & All Angels Church - Portland OR							
Treasurer's Report as of May 2021 for Operating Fund							
Monday, June 14, 2021							
Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>							
400.110	Open Offerings	1,252	3,750	9,355	18,750	50	45,000
400.115	Pledge Income	57,654	49,333	240,698	246,665	98	592,000
400.230	Grant	-	-	38,270	38,270	100	38,270
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>58,907</b>	<b>\$53,083</b>	<b>288,324</b>	<b>\$303,685</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>\$675,270</b>
<b>Expense</b>							
	<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>39,369</b>	<b>\$38,949</b>	<b>193,906</b>	<b>\$194,744</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$467,383</b>
	<b>Total Property Expenses</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>\$3,313</b>	<b>26,869</b>	<b>\$23,815</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>\$54,246</b>
	<b>Parish Administration</b>	<b>4,617</b>	<b>\$1,676</b>	<b>14,063</b>	<b>\$8,380</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>\$20,100</b>
	<b>Diocese of Oregon Program DPA</b>	<b>9,653</b>	<b>\$9,653</b>	<b>48,265</b>	<b>\$48,265</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$115,841</b>
	<b>Outreach</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>\$708</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>\$3,540</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>
	<b>Programs</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>\$766</b>	<b>5,206</b>	<b>\$3,830</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>\$9,200</b>
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>59,104</b>	<b>\$55,065</b>	<b>292,662</b>	<b>\$282,574</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>\$675,270</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$196)</b>	<b>(\$1,982)</b>	<b>(\$4,338)</b>	<b>\$21,111</b>		<b>\$0</b>
* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date							

## JUNIOR WARDEN FOR FACILITIES

The MOWs and WOWs (Men and Women On Wednesdays) have been hard at work all through the pandemic taking care of a multitude of maintenance and repair projects including lawn care, weeding, window-washing, plumbing fixes, sprinkler setting and maintenance, planting and pruning, awning installation, painting, electrical and lighting



updates, kitchen cleanup, and a lot of time cleaning up the messes left outside on the church grounds, which have really increased in recent months. There are many things I have not listed, but 10 or 12 people get a lot done on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 am to noon, and it is really remarkable!

As a part of wanting to make our spaces as safe as possible, Hunter-Davison (our HVAC vendor) completed a review of our ventilating systems and made some needed small adjustments with dampers and outside air settings in early June. Most of our public spaces have strong mechanical ventilation. All outside air settings to the air handlers were increased to a minimum of 50% outside air. We will continue to monitor these systems and make needed adjustments as we return to heating the building in the fall.

Some of you may have noticed some work being done on the Gallery (main-floor) bathroom. Amy Valentine and I are supervising and working on a complete redo with new sink, water heater, toilet, mirror, light fixtures, exhaust fan, bathroom hardware, window coverings, paint and a new floor. Supply-chain problems have added more than a month to the project because arrival of the flooring materials was delayed. We are hoping the project will be completed in early July.

The facilities committee has not met since the pandemic began but will begin to prioritize projects for the future.

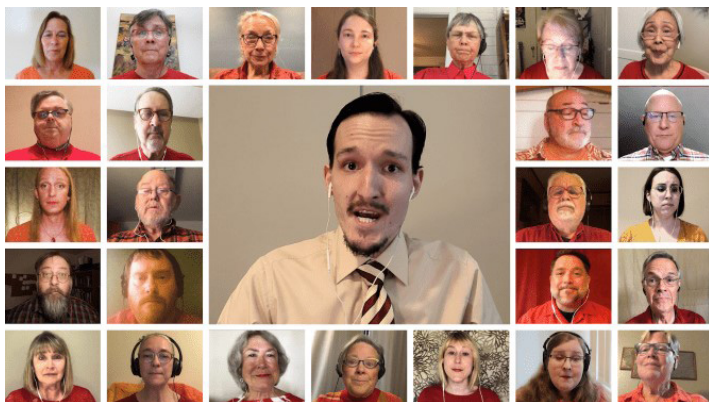
— Cliff Fairley, Junior Warden

## MUSIC PROGRAM SUMMER UPDATE

Your music staff has a busy summer ahead of them! Choir Director Brian Fairbanks is currently taking classes in arts management to expand his expertise. Choir Librarian Amy Valentine has been working on multiple construction projects, including redoing the upstairs bathroom at St. Michael's along with Cliff Fairley, another of our loyal choir members.

Beyond reorganizing organ sheet music, filing and cleaning the music office and choir room for the new season, taking a continuing-education class on music pedagogy, and schedul-

ing and recording new music and soloists for the summer, your Music Director & Organist Hannah Brewer is planning and rehearsing an organ recital tentatively scheduled for Sunday afternoon, August 29, right here at St. Michael's! The program will consist mainly of 19<sup>th</sup>-century French organ works, many of which are either too long for church services or not liturgically based. Composers such as César Franck, Maurice Duruflé, Louis Vierne, and Felix Mendelssohn will all be heard along with some lesser-known surprises. If all continues to go well with pandemic recovery, the organ recital will be open to the public (with limitations depending on the current caseload) as well as livestreamed for those at home. More info will be forthcoming...



We say a sad farewell this summer to St. Michael's Singers' bass section leader Alex Adams, who has been with us for the past four years and who is moving to the Seattle area. We wish him well on his musical endeavors and will sorely miss his expressive Broadway Night performances. Check out his solo in our last big virtual choir anthem, [\*Ev'ry time I feel the spirit\*](#).

It has been a difficult fifteen months for choirs around the world as gatherings and singing have been largely limited because of COVID-19. Many choirs are having to debate decisions like requiring that every member is vaccinated in order to sing. Is it exclusionary or protective of the vulnerable? What about masks? Are they here to stay while singing?

As we continue to regather as a shared community, think about what music has meant to you over the course of the pandemic. Have you been inspired to see the creative ways choirs and musicians have continued to make music? Has it saddened you to be reminded of the separation we all endured? What have you missed? What have you come to appreciate even more about music and music-making because of the pandemic?

Remember, if you or your child has an itch to sing more (and be trained for free to develop your voice as a choral singer), please reach out to Hannah to find out about or join one of our choirs. We also welcome instrumentalists of any age who wish to offer a musical interlude at one of our services this summer. Get in touch!

—Hannah Brewer, hannahcbrewer@gmail.com

## ALTAR GUILD

St. Michael's Altar Guild Ministry is one in which members prepare the church for worship on Saturdays and Sundays. When COVID hit, that all came to a halt, like so many other things in our lives. Chris, James, Hannah and Beto took over preparing for Sunday services themselves, and they made it all happen!

When it came time to set the church up for Advent, Chris asked if any of us who were vaccinated would be willing to come back and begin our ministry duties again. Since then, we have been slowly getting back into our routine, and all teams started meeting again just this past month. A special thanks to Carolyn Eaton and Julie Grandfield for doing flower arrangements for Advent, Christmas, and Easter.

Now that we are gathering again, we see that we are smaller in force. We give thanks for the time Peggy Hartman and Kate DeBord spent on Altar Guild before they both had to leave their teams. As we all begin our church journey anew, maybe it's time to consider contributing to parish life in a different way. Altar Guild is worth considering! It's an easy, behind-the-scenes ministry. Each team serves once a month (Saturday and Sunday mornings), you get to meet some really nice people (women and men), and you're helping St. Michael's in a very tangible way. Call me or ask me about it at church. I'd love to give you a look at what we do behind the scenes.

— Jennie Street, 503/407-5096, street1316@comcast.net

## IWC HELPS COMBAT COVID-19

One of the stated goals of the Immigrant Welcoming Congregation (IWC) is to accompany our immigrant brothers and sisters in their life journey. What we have learned in our 10+ years as a ministry at St. Michael's is that accompaniment takes many forms.

When COVID-19 vaccines starting becoming available to Oregonians, many members of the IWC experienced big roadblocks and hours of frustration trying to schedule an appointment to receive a vaccination. The question was brought up at an IWC meeting that if fluent English speakers with access to technology and hours to spend trying to get an appointment for a COVID vaccine are stymied by the process, what must it be like for our immigrant brothers and sisters, many of whom face language, technological and time barriers?

As a ministry, we agreed that we needed to do what we could to increase access to COVID vaccines for the members of our Latinx community. A subgroup of the IWC, with clergy support, reached out to the Multnomah County Health Department to see what we could do. MCHD agreed to make St. Michael's a "trusted community partner," thus giving us access to appointments at special vaccine sites for BIPOC folks.

## EUCHARISTIC VISITORS MINISTRY



When you're laid up at home or in the hospital due to illness or injury, or for those who are homebound or in care centers for reasons of health or frailty, did you know that Holy Communion can be brought to you by either the parish clergy or our Eucharistic Visitors? The ministry of the Eucharistic Visitors is to bring Holy Communion directly from the altar to those who cannot be with the gathered community on

Sunday mornings or during the week. The sacraments are a vital part of the church's healing and pastoral ministry and as such, please feel free to call the church and request Holy Communion, especially following a hospitalization, surgery, serious injury or childbirth.

St. Michael's has eight licensed Eucharistic Visitors: Jack and Sue Harper, Terrie Ingram, Gayle Morris, Mary Myers, Ricki Perry, Charlene Sabin and Tim Sackett. The Eucharistic Visitors ministry is coordinated by Deacon Marla McGarry-Lawrence (retired). For information on how to become a Eucharistic Visitor, please contact Deacon Marla at [mmcgarrylawrence@gmail.com](mailto:mmcgarrylawrence@gmail.com) or 503/803-0028.

— Marla McGarry-Lawrence

In addition to appointment access, the members of the IWC were given and took the opportunity to help at these BIPOC vaccine sites. They volunteered as flaggers, greeters and with check-in, all making a difference!



Within a few weeks, members of the IWC had reached out by phone and scheduled over 50% of St. Michael's Misa members for their first vaccination. In addition to St. Michael's members, the IWC collaborated with clergy at the other Episcopal churches as well as with VOZ, IMIrJ and other community partners to get the word out. Overall, we assisted over 250 Spanish-speaking community members with securing vaccine appointments.

— Susie Silva-Strommer, IWC member

## OUTREACH & JUSTICE COUNCIL

This year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Outreach & Justice team continued to do God's work by disbursing parish funds to those agencies and ministries in need. We corresponded by email for a few months with those members who generally attend meetings and invited others to join us as we began to see the scope of what was in store for us. For the past year, we have been meeting by Zoom. We are now planning to morph into a hybrid meeting model, with Zoom meetings interspersed with in-person meetings in the Parish Hall. I think it was a surprise to all of us to realize how much we recognized the positives of Zoom, but we agree that sometimes the personal touch is needed.



O & J coordinated two projects this past year. One was to purchase items of use to those folks experiencing homelessness—snacks, socks and toiletries—and, with the help of the parish, we packed many gallon bags to hand out.

The second project was to work in conjunction with Advocacy Action to get signatures on two initiative petitions seeking to limit the purchase and dissemination of large automatic weapons. Organized by *Rise Against Hate*, the petitions have been sent to the Secretary of State's office and hopefully will appear on the May 2022 ballot.

We in the O & J Ministries Council are so grateful that our parish has given us funds to allow us to do this work, and as always, anyone who wishes to join us is welcome. We meet on first Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Give us a call!

— Susan Barnett, Lynn Baker, Co-conveners

## VOLUNTEER AT NEFP

Theodore Montgomery, Program Coordinator at Northeast Emergency Food Program, recently sent an email requesting new and experienced volunteers. He wrote that they need extra help during the day shift, particularly with the delivery on Wednesdays. The evening shift is also in need of folks, particularly on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.



NEFP is a ministry of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and has been a community partner of St. Michael's for 20+ years. You can go to their website, <http://emoregon/nefp>, to learn more and find out about volunteering.

## THE JOYFUL NEWS, SUMMER 2021

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES ARE IN THE CHURCH – ALLELUIA!

As St. Michael's gathers for in-person worship, it is good to remind ourselves what a BIG DEAL it is for our young children to return to church and become reacquainted with our sacred space and the faith community they have been away from over these last 15 months.

This summertime of transition from virtual worship to in person worship is an opportunity for all of us to extend  *Loving Kindness*  to one another as we find our way back home.

Whatever service time works best for your family, remember children are full members of the body of Christ and their participation is always welcome (indeed, always important!) in the life and worship of our community. We are overjoyed to see you, to learn with you, to worship and celebrate with you and to grow in God's love with you!

### WHAT TO EXPECT THIS SUMMER:

- Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall at the 9 & 11 o'clock liturgies;
- Children (and adults), please wear a face mask while inside the building;
- Courtyard "Just for Fun!" activities for kids during the 10 o'clock hour;
- "Open Air" liturgy at 11 o'clock in the church courtyard (weather permitting);
- A changing table for little ones always available at the foot of the stairs near the women's and men's restrooms.

### LOOKING AHEAD

- We are excited to incorporate Illustrated Ministry's 2021 *Compassion Camp* stories and activities into our time together in Children's Liturgy this summer!



- Updates on Parish Life each week via the Weekly Messenger/eblast and the St. Michael's Parent Google Group
- We hope you have a wonderful summer full of the people and things you love!!

— Leslie Sackett, Associate for Ministry with Children & Families

## YOUTH GROUP



In the spring, it was wonderful to catch up and see each other in person after the winter months. On Palm Sunday, many of the youth met with their leaders and Chris in the courtyard for a chance to chat, fold palm crosses and create Paschal candles. Then, with the weather getting nicer, the Youth Group began to meet again at Normandale Park in NE Portland. We met three times, once a month after spring break.

At our April meeting, we divided into two teams to compete in a series of lawn events. At one point, the teams had to create a daisy-chain necklace, which seemed to be everyone's favorite event. We also had a few team-building events during the day.

During the second meet-up in May, we had a smaller group so we all walked down to the local Plaid Pantry, and everyone got an ice cream on an 80-degree spring day. We walked back to the park, ate the treats and chatted. After the ice cream was gone, we played a game of kickball. The youth came up with their own scoring system – very innovative, indeed!



Our final gathering of the program year was in June. Unlike the other two sunny days, it was overcast and even rained a little. Nevertheless, it was our end-of-year celebration, and we had 20 youth in attendance! We enjoyed Chipotle burritos, played a game of kickball, used a parachute (yes, like in elementary school), and had corn-hole and ladder-golf toss-off competitions. We honored our graduating seniors and our 8th graders moving into high school, and we had a gift for every youth.

This school year was odd, but we are so proud of how our youth stuck together as a community through virtual meetings and games as well as socially distanced outdoor activities. We look forward to having a summer hike and starting up youth group in the fall.

— Youth Leader Cohort: John Lidstrom, Jen McBratney, Laura Nichols and Chris Craun

## RED DOORS ARTISAN FAIR

Calling all artists! The Red Doors Artisan Fair is back! Save the date, December 4, 2021, at St. Michael's. Vendor booth invitations will be offered to parish members and friends first. If you are not an artist or crafter, please plan to support your local artisans by doing your Christmas shopping at the Red Doors Artisan Fair.



The committee will have the first planning meeting very soon. We will be discussing placement of tables, designation of the money we raise and advertising. If you are interested in joining the committee or have ideas to share, or if you would like to reserve a vendor booth, please contact Sheri O'Brien at 503/706-2620 (call or text) or at [Sheri@OregonDollhouse.com](mailto:Sheri@OregonDollhouse.com).

We are excited to get back to activities at St. Michael's!

— Sheri O'Brien, Committee Chair

## WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB



The Women's Breakfast Club has not met in over a year, but we will return as soon as Sam's Restaurant is willing and able to take us in. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am.

The gathering is open to all women church members, and the purpose of this group is to build community by socializing in a relaxed setting. Please feel free to email Paula Raines with any questions at [psrmelody@comcast.net](mailto:psrmelody@comcast.net).

— Paula Raines

## ST. MICHAEL'S TECHNOLOGY JOURNEY IN 2020 & 2021

Fifteen months ago, St. Michael's was stumbling along, making do with a random collection of parts for our Wi-Fi network and various internal sound systems. Then came the pandemic. I am sure many of you know the drill as it likely happened in your homes.



First you start having to work from home, which you assume will only be for a couple of months at the most. It's a little herky-jerky, but you get by, knowing that it won't be long until you're back at your desk in the office. But it drags on, and on, and on. Eventually you must start making some upgrades because everything is just too slow, and you are not getting the work done that you need to. So, you make your upgrades. You get a new computer; you speed up your internet; you find a place to put an actual desk where you can work and finally, things start to settle in. It looks like you might just be in the place that you need to be.

And now, the next thing is that the pandemic panic is finally easing and going back to work is getting closer to a reality. But now, that reality is a little different. Does the office need you back in every day? Are you going to go back to slower internet? Going to give back that cool new laptop?

It is not any different here at St. Michael & All Angels, just for other reasons.

When this all began, we started streaming our services to Facebook by phone. Then, to improve that experience, we had to bring Wi-Fi into the Sanctuary. The necessary cable was strung from the main network switch in the copier room to the little cutout where the harpsichord is, using mostly blue masking tape (now starting to peel away). We got a video camera and started using some free, open-source software to stream to Facebook from an underpowered laptop. Then we realized that we needed to have a wired connection to the internet, not wireless. So, we added more taped CAT6 network cable to get the computer/camera setup next to the front pews. We needed some power there as well, so an extension cord was taped to the floor to bring power to the computer and camera. We got better mics to pick up the sound of the organ, piano, and singers.

Then it turned that not everyone was happy about Facebook. We investigated options and found that we could use Vimeo and their proprietary software to stream directly to the Vimeo servers where it was then pushed to Facebook and YouTube. Happy times!

That is what we have been doing for the last several months and it has been working well.

But...as we started looking at bringing people back into the church, performing the Eucharist in a studio (essentially what we have been doing) was not going to work with live people in the pews. Bringing the Eucharist directly to our parishioners meant that cameras and mics and computers positioned directly between worshippers and the altar and clergy was not going to be optimal.

You might think, "Well, it's just going to be for a short while until everyone is back and everything is just as it was." We all know how that went.

The reality is that things have changed. While most people will welcome being back in the church, not all will be ready to jump in, vaccine or no vaccine. Also, we have extended our congregation to homes across the country. We are in people's phones and tablets. We are with them on planes. We accompany them on vacation. People are not going to want us to stop this just because a couple hundred local people are able to sit the pews from week to week.



So, we aren't going to stop. We are just making some changes that will allow us to keep our extended congregation. And these changes will not just benefit people far from Portland, they will benefit those in the pews directly as well. The sound system is being upgraded not only in the sanctuary, but we will also have speakers and mics available for use in the courtyard, in our gathering halls and anyplace we can plug in – like at a park picnic, maybe. We will be able to stream internally when we have overflow crowds without hiring somebody to do it. And we can do it all without putting cameras, mics and other gear in front of people and wires and cables everywhere.

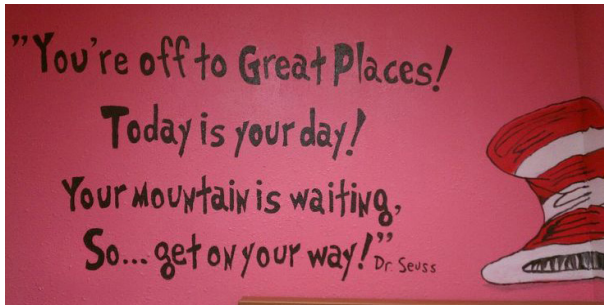
Our experiences of the last year plus have pushed us all to new places and, while it is good to get back to something familiar, this is an augmented reality, with new opportunities and new ways of connection.

— JT Quanbeck



## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

In this long, strange, difficult school year, our children and youth have continued to learn and grow and progress in their school careers. The St. Michael's community is proud of all of you and wishes to acknowledge your achievements. We also wish to acknowledge and voice appreciation for the hard work under very trying circumstances of the teachers, professors, counselors and other school staff in our community.



In addition to the seniors whose bios appear in the next few pages, here are the school promotions and graduations in the last six months that we're aware of:

**Rosie Orellana** graduated in December 2020 with BA degrees in Vocal Performance and Psychology;

**Jasmine Acord** graduated on June 12 from Southern Oregon University with a BS degree in Health Care Administration;

**Amy Alvarado** graduated from Lewis & Clark College;

**Sofía Alvarado Martínez** graduated from high school;

**Andrés De Luna Luévano** graduated from high school;

**Ada Herzog** was promoted from 8th grade at Laurelhurst Elementary and will attend Grant High School in the fall;

**Samuel Robison** was promoted from the 8th grade at Vernon School;

**Parker Siegwarth** was promoted from the 8th grade at Jefferson School;

**Lucianna Macauley** was promoted from the 8th grade at Catlin Gabel School;

**Michael Olguín Moreno** was promoted from the 8th grade;

**Ben Watnick-Wizeman** was promoted from the 8th grade at the Creative Science School;

**Wilbert Enrique Basán Cortés** was promoted from the 8th grade;

**Clementine Smith** was promoted from 5th grade at the Creative Science School.



## SENIOR MOMENTS

We congratulate the high-school seniors in our community who survived and even thrived in these many months of virtual and hybrid schooling. We appreciate them sharing a little bit about their high-school experience and plans for the future, and we wish them well in their upcoming endeavors!

— Chris Craun, Christine Lentz, Gloria Orellana & Susie Silva-Strommer

## RYAN CECHINI

Ryan Cechini just graduated from LaSalle High School. His parents are Rachel Blakeman and Jeff Cechini, and he has a younger brother Henry. They were introduced to St. Michael's by the Lighthart/Faletra family, with whom they volunteered at the Community Meal before it was shut down in March 2020.

In high school, Ryan was part of the varsity tennis team all four years and was team captain his senior year. His favorite areas of study were math and government, and he's very appreciative of his many superb teachers and the drive they had to help their students succeed. Virtual learning was not ideal, but the students tended to be more motivated and engaged in the higher-level classes he took this year.



LaSalle eventually held half-time virtual/in-person classes this spring for a month or two and fully in-person classes for the last two months of the school year, for which Ryan is very grateful. They even held an outside prom.

In the fall, Ryan will be attending Carleton College, a small, liberal-arts college in Northfield, Minnesota. He's considering several different majors, including math, economics and philosophy. Having lived his whole life in Portland, he's now ready for a change of scenery – at least for a while. In the meantime, Ryan's summer job is at the Powell Paint store on upper Halsey, so stop in and say hi!

## JUN HAYES

Jun Hayes graduated from Oregon Charter Academy (ORCA) on June 12. She began her high-school career at West Linn High School but switched in her sophomore year because ORCA was a better fit for her. She enjoyed outstanding teachers who were dedicated, understanding and willing to go the extra mile. ORCA is an online school with live and recorded classes, a bonus when schools all over the country in March 2020 went virtual and Jun was already studying that way! She especially enjoyed learning about astronomy. In her free time, she would read, draw, dance, play video games and help her mom in their large garden. She has appreciated her “pod” of close friends from various areas in her life.



Jun and her parents, Bob Hayes and Marlana Stoddard-Hayes, have been part of the St. Michael's community almost her whole life. One of her most memorable experiences here was the youth mission trip to San Francisco. She had never been there and enjoyed her experience greatly. She was disappointed that mission trips couldn't happen in 2020 and 2021.

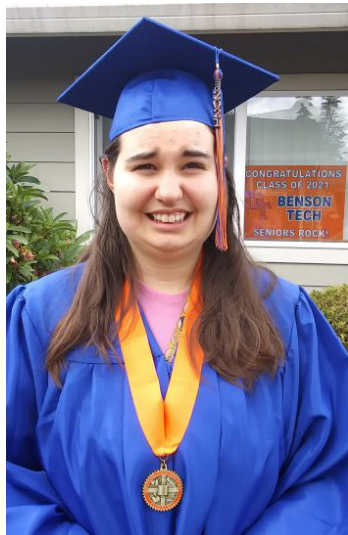
This summer, Jun is planning to help her parents with home projects and finish the exterior paint job she began on a neighbor's house. In the fall, Jun will attend Central Oregon Community College in Bend. The school offers dorms for students, and she'll be in a suite with her best friend and a couple of other future friends. Her plan is to earn an AA degree in Psychology and then transfer to a four-year university to achieve a Bachelor's Degree.

## ALIX LILLIE

Alix graduated from Benson High School and is excited to look for a job to earn some money and continue seeking out a college experience. While online school meant she didn't have to wake up as early, she did experience more distractions.

This summer, Alix will be doing an internship with KBOO radio to help them with their social media.

Her favorite memories from her extensive time at St. Michael's are centered around all the activities of the youth group.



## ANA SOLIS CASTELAN

Ana has attended St. Michael's as long as she can remember. Every Sunday, you could find Ana sitting with her dad and brother on the left-hand side of the church about five pews from the back. For many years, Ana was an acolyte, and she also participated in the youth mission trip to San Francisco.

Ana graduated from Reynolds High School, where she was part of Student Leadership. She was active in planning school-wide assemblies as well as various activities for the student body. Two of her favorite activities included an event honoring US veterans. Veterans were invited to tour Reynolds High School, and Ana acted as their host and tour guide. Her



other favorite activity was planning the annual end-of-year fair called the *Raider Rumble*.

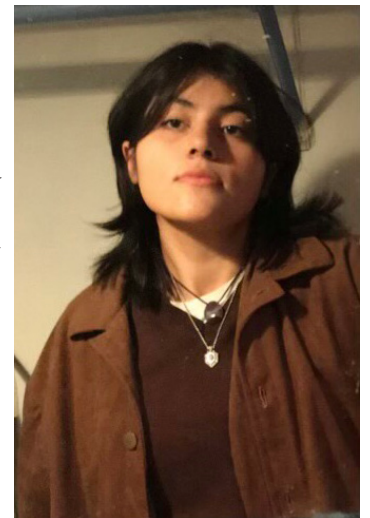
After high school, Ana plans to work part-time while attending Portland State University full-time. While she isn't exactly sure what she wants to major in, she thinks it might be something having to do with business.

Ana says she has missed church these last 16 months and is looking forward to coming back.

## MARÍA FERNANDA HERNÁNDEZ VALENCIA

María, who goes by Fer, graduated this year from Newberg High School. All things considered, she felt like her senior year went pretty well! She was definitely overwhelmed at first when thrown into this strange, new virtual experience but found that it improved with time.

This summer, she is moving to begin her pursuit of a degree in Biology from the Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York.



Fer was blown away by the inclusivity of St Michael's. She felt like everything was out in the open, and she was not scared to come in. She appreciated the welcome and the people who helped her become involved in the community, including making tamales and expanding her ability to offer hospitality. She liked meeting Chris+ and seeing the passion of the community.

## CATIE MACAULEY

Catie graduated this year from Catlin Gable. Doing her senior year online was not great and certainly had its academic challenges; but the unexpected upside was having more time with family and time to reflect as she was preparing to launch out into the world.



Catie plans to take a gap year to live in San Francisco with a friend and utilize a family member with a place to live. She hopes to find work and enjoy the city. She will also take an epic backpacking trip in Patagonia for three months and potentially take on an internship in Jerusalem with *Kids for Peace*.

Among Catie's favorite aspects of St. Michael's (where she has been for three years after a move from Vermont with her family) is our capacity to confront social-justice issues that are important to her. She appreciated not having to keep her church life separate from her work in the world, and she regrets not having more time to get to know the other amazing youth of our parish. Catie's hope for us as a church of the future is to have more events and service projects which include our 1:00 pm community.

## DANIEL PORTUGAL

Daniel just graduated from Willamina High School in Willamina, Oregon. He lives in Sheridan but has extended family in Vancouver, including his father and stepmother, Carlos and Debra Portugal, and his half-brother Landon, who is involved with the children's programs at St. Michael's. In high school, he especially enjoyed science classes, and his favorite class was genetics. Daniel said that taking classes online was not very fun as he feels he is more successful learning by interacting in person with classmates and teachers.

Daniel participated in football his freshman, sophomore and junior years. After that, he wanted to try a different sport and moved to cross-country and track. Clearly, he is "in his element," as his team just won the championship in their league – a first for Willamina High! He won individual medals as well.



## OLIVIA SWARTZ

Olivia Swartz graduated recently from West Linn High School. She's attended St. Michael's all of her life, including being confirmed with a Diocesan group at Trinity in her eighth-grade year. St. Michael's has been a constant throughout her life. She feels like she's been able to explore religion and faith on her own time, and she considers the St. Michael's community like a huge family.



Two highlights of Olivia's high school years were participating in mock trial and band. She enjoyed the intense and competitive nature of mock trial, and pushing herself and being pushed by her coaches was very rewarding. She played alto sax in the band all four years, and the band director, Mr. Egan, was a demanding but fun instructor. This past COVID year has seen her social life distilled down to her three closest friends, her "pod."

Olivia's been working as a swim instructor and lifeguard for the last couple of summers, and she'll continue with that line of work this summer at the Jewish Community Center. Her favorite class to teach is the baby-parent class.

In the fall, Olivia will be studying at Loyola University in Chicago. She's spent a lot of time in the Chicago area over the years, and she has family and feels comfortable there. She says that even though she applied to colleges all over the country, it felt sort of inevitable that she would choose a college in Chicago. She likes the vibe of Loyola, being a classic college campus in a big city, and it also offers the biophysics major she's looking for and activities like pep band and mock trial. She says it seems like the right place for her to figure out who she is and what she wants to do. While she'll miss her family, she's focusing not on loss but on what she will gain in experiences.

Daniel attends church with his good friend Caleb, and they both won cross-country and track scholarships to Corban University, where they will attend in the fall. He says Corban is on a hill, so they will be in shape just going up and down to classes. He mentioned that Corban is a Christian university and attending church three times per week is required.

His plans for the future include majoring in business and working for a big company. He is considering a minor in animal science. Daniel enjoys the sense of community that church offers, and says that he likes it because "we have the same goals and interests, and we seek the same purpose."

# ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1704 NE 43rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97213-1402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Summer hours are 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Mondays  
– Thursdays. Call or email before coming over:  
503/284-7141 or [office@stmaa.org](mailto:office@stmaa.org).



(Continued from page 1)



As your clergy, we are most excited for what this means for who we are called to be in the world as it is becoming something new with God. To follow that path, our number one priority right now is how we gather, how we become better at talking to each other and holding space for one another. Think of this time post-quarantine as an extended retreat. Church is here for you to simply

come and be, to be present, to be held by community and God, to relearn how to listen to one another and ourselves. As we make honing these skills for listening and healing our top priority, imagine the places we'll go together.

Faithfully,

Chris+ and James+

## OFFICE HOURS THIS SUMMER

As usual, our office hours are shorter and more flexible in the summer. Officially, Gloria will be in the office from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday. There's a good chance that she will be in the office later than that, but always call before coming over so that you don't waste a trip. Volunteers may be covering the office for a week in July and a week in August.



There also may be times when staff members are on vacation and possibly unreachable. All of us should have autoresponders on our email which will give you an idea of when we will return.

At least one clergy will be available at all times for pastoral needs.

— Gloria Orellana, Associate for Administration

PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY MESSENGER/EBLAST FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS.