

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

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Dear Ones,

MAILED DECEMBER 17, 2020

I am learning that with the new pace and ways we are Church, certain things are harder to replace than others. We can offer a church service, singing and praying in the safety of our homes. We can offer Zoom to gather for fellowship and learning. We can hand out burritos to people who are hungry. We can even put together a Nativity Play with 30 children – at least we think we can make that happen!

Something that is irreplaceable is that casual, unplanned, passing by one another – seeing one another and knowing where we are in time and space. It is hard to know what I am up to other than when you see me on a screen, and it is challenging for me to know where you are and how you are doing as the days get shorter and the evenings stretch on. Please know that you continue to always be on my mind and in my heart, and I am praying for the day when we can be together. In the meantime, call the people whose faces come to mind when you think of a Sunday morning. Reach out to those you miss in your various ministry areas. Send a note to someone you are praying for and let them know. I will be doing the same.

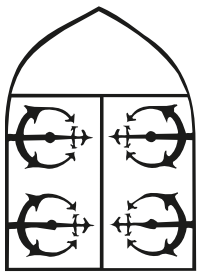
A few things that I have been up to besides what you see on-screen. . . .

- I took on the role of Dean of the Metro East Convocation that gathers the clergy and lay delegates of the 12 congregations in our area.
- We have a dedicated cohort of St. Michael's people participating in what is called *Reckoning with Racism*, offered by The Common Table. Over the course of nine months, we meet twice a month to learn about Oregon's legacy of racism through first-person storytelling, grapple with the story of our land and how we came to have it, and engage in dismantling racism in our local context (<https://www.commontableoregon.org/>).
- A small team of us are partnering with The Rev. Maria McDowell and St. Philip the Deacon as they work on a project to potentially build affordable housing on their property. We are part of the Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition, which is an interfaith collective that is seeking to partner faith communities with their neighborhoods to build capacity for affordable housing (<https://www.leaven.org/land-housing-organizing>).

I wish that there were more opportunities for us to cross paths, make eye contact, and check in on the day-to-day as we walk through the red doors. But until then, the work of the church continues and you are with me always.

Blessings to you and yours this Advent season.

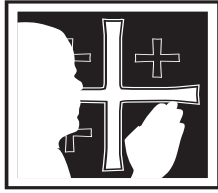
The Rev. Chris Craun



Main Office, office@stmaa.org	503/284-7141	Brian Fairbanks, Choir Director	Ext. 315
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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 **Liddy Curtin, Priscilla Hall, Ann Hargraves, Mark Jones, Caroline Litzenberger, Emily Lyon, Katie Reitel, Amy Swartz, Ann Wetherell & Pat Wilson;**
- + and for the healing and comfort of **all those suffering from COVID-19 and for their families;**
- + for the repose of the soul of **Michael Berkson**, who died on October 17, and for his son and daughter, **David Berkson and Meg Berkson;**
- + for the repose of the soul of **Jerry Vannice**, who died on October 29, and for her son **Jim Vannice.**



In life we are in the midst of death, O God, and in the presence of your beloved child we see that death cannot separate us from your love. 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.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS & DEDICATIONS

Even in these difficult times with no in-person church services, members of our Altar Guild are still providing us with beautiful greens and flowers for behind the altar and, this season, wreaths on the walls of the Nave and a lit and decorated Christmas tree in the chancel.



However, because of the pandemic, our altar-flower expenses are down for the year. Of course, we still welcome your donations to the Flower Fund at any time; but this Christmas season, we're inviting you to consider donating to the COVID Fund to assist those in need within our community. In either case (or both!), you may donate in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones or whatever you choose. These dedications are printed in the Christmas bulletins.

If you're interested, we invite you to send in a check, indicating in the memo line that it is for the COVID Fund or flowers. Because time is short, please email Gloria at gloriao@stmaa.org with your dedication. Or donate online at stmaa.org, marking the appropriate boxes; but again, send an email to Gloria **with your dedication by Tuesday, December 22**, or call 503/284-7141.

— Gloria Orellana, St. Michael's staff

ASSOCIATE RECTOR

In the midst of a brand new year for the Church, we have new opportunities dawning for how we grow together in the body of Christ. How will we, as a whole community, come to resemble the love and way of Jesus more fully in the year ahead of us? That question is at the heart of everything I've been thinking about for our Adult Education and Formation offerings this year, a project we're calling *Lift Up 2021*. 2020 has been a year that threw many of us challenges we hadn't imagined having to tackle. That's left us with some anxiety and some hope about how we'll begin to grow from this point on. In 2021, what parts of our faith do we want to lift up and highlight as being essential to what we'll grow into next together?

Lift Up 2021 has several levels of engagement to choose from. At its core, all of them seek to give us a common language about how we're seeking to grow and walk with God in the year ahead. While the past year was unlike anything we'd expected, it was one of the most robust years for Christian formation I've overseen at St. Michael's. The use of Zoom meeting spaces has allowed us to gather at times of the week in groups of our community members in numbers unlike any we've had in our prior education offerings. It's also given us a better sense of how to help individuals tailor their level of involvement based on availability and interest. In the year ahead, we'll use small groups for accountability and support in how we're seeking to grow in Christ. We'll have Tuesday evening classes that provide resources around common goals.

But if all you have time for is choosing one new behavior or prayer practice to increase your conscious contact with God, there's space for that, too. Choosing one thing to focus on lifting up in our life with God is something everyone in our community can do, whether you have time for a small group or class or not. In the weeks ahead, we'll be talking about what this means and what it can look like to use a single practice as a framework for understanding our relationship to our broader church community and our tradition in general. Our one thing may change from season to season or even week to week if we find that God is reaching us in new and different ways. We're particularly exploring how that one thing can be seen in two ways, one for when things are going well and one for when they're not. Engaging the small-group work and other special offerings can help explore this in a deeper way; but even without that, the invitation to choose "one thing" for a further walk with God is open to all.

Our small groups in Advent have been focused on how we choose this "one thing." They are also completely open to drop-ins during the remainder of Advent! If you'd like to join us, or if you'd like to set up a special group for one of the ministry areas you're connected with at St. Michael's, send me an email, at jamesj@stmaa.org.

— The Rev. James Joiner

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello Friends,

As we approach the end of 2020, I'd like to give an update on the finances of St. Michael's. Our fiscal year has gone pretty well. Thank you in advance for helping us finish the year strong.

We haven't received completed financial data for the historically biggest months of the year—November and December—so the data presented is through October 31. Overall, pledge and open offerings are \$14,000 under budget for the year. That's 3.1%. BUT if we consider all operating income (PPP funds received and no grant from the Diocese), we're 8.3% over budget. This means we're looking at a surplus this year! Thank you so much for your continued generosity. It is so greatly appreciated.

Operating expenses are \$2,291 under budget through October. (Under budget = good)

You should have received up-to-date giving statements a few weeks ago. If you're able, please use the final couple weeks of 2020 to complete your pledge. If you have questions about your 2020 giving, please email Jackie Van Anda at bookkeeper@stmaa.org.

If you have specific questions about the finances, please send me an email at swart.jeffrey@gmail.com. Since accessing the financial statements that hang outside the Nativity Hall is not an option this year, I'd be happy to answer your questions via email.

With gratitude,

— Jeff Swart, Vestry Treasurer

VESTRY UPDATE

What has been happening with the St. Michael's Vestry?

Well, when compared to years past, not much. The vestry continues to meet monthly via Zoom to take action on the routine business of St. Michael's. Right now, the vestry is preparing to close out the year, forming the budget for 2021, and identifying members to replace those rotating off the vestry. Late in spring, the vestry formed a task group to guide St. Michael's as we reopen for face-to-face activities. Throughout the pandemic shutdown, we have remained optimistic that we could safely open up soon. Who knew that "soon" would last so long? In consideration of the way things have played out with the pandemic's resurgence, we are relieved that we didn't rush things.

While the COVID Relief Fund is not really a vestry "thing," the vestry is proud of the way parishioners have stepped up to support the fund. The fund provides much-needed food, housing and general living support to parishioners in need during

Income	Year to Date Balance	Budget Year to Date	Annual Budget
Pledge Offerings	\$466,000.00	\$487,500.00	\$585,000.00
Open Offerings	\$38,602.00	\$33,330.00	\$40,000.00
Diocesan Grant*	\$0.00	\$27,500.00	\$33,000.00
PPP/Cares Act **	\$89,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$593,802.00	\$548,330.00	\$658,000.00
Expenses			
Personnel Expenses	\$378,542.00	\$362,450.00	\$434,906.00
Property and Utility Expenses	\$42,592.00	\$53,725.00	\$63,875.00
Parish Administration	\$17,567.00	\$25,590.00	\$30,700.00
Diocese of Oregon Program (DPA)	\$87,850.00	\$87,850.00	\$105,417.00
Programs and Outreach	\$20,033.00	\$19,260.00	\$23,100.00
Total Expenses	\$546,584.00	\$548,875.00	\$657,998.00
Net Income less Expenses	\$47,218.00		

* Diocesan Grant will not be received in 2020 due to COVID-19
** \$89,200 PPP/Cares Act Funds received in May
Budget YTD figure is affected by rounding.

A NOTE FROM JEFF AND KATE SWART

Dear St. Michael's Community,

It is with mixed emotions that we write this update. We have decided to move to Eastern Washington next month. Kate's father has had significant health issues this year that led to brain surgery in October, and we feel the pull to be closer to him and Kate's mother, Peggy. We are excited to be closer to



family and hopefully start a family of our own in the Tri-Cities.

Saying farewell to the St. Michael's community is one of the more difficult parts of leaving Portland. This special place holds so many cherished memories and experiences. Thank you for providing us with a spiritual home. We would have loved to say a proper in-person goodbye, but this year has upended many plans, hopes and wishes. I'm sure we'll be back to visit; but for now, this is goodbye.

With love,

— Kate and Jeff

this pandemic time. A few weeks ago the fund was depleted, and you all responded generously. Thank you very much!

The need for support continues unabated. We are praying the generosity we have experienced will carry us through. If, during this season of giving, you want to support a local need with a donation, please consider a gift to the St. Michael's COVID Relief Fund or any of the worthy organizations discussed in the O&J article on Page 6 of this Messenger. For the COVID fund, you can donate online or get in touch with the St. Michael's office or Chris for help in making your donation.

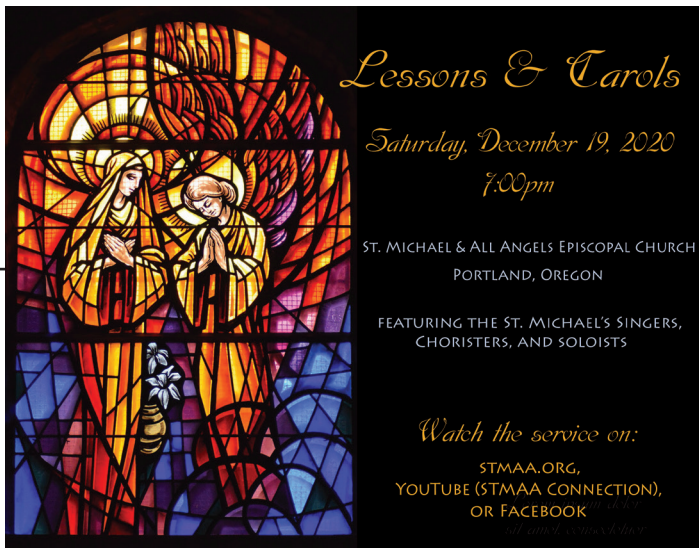
— Dave Reilly, Senior Warden for the Vestry

MUSIC NOTES FROM HANNAH BREWER

Chris Craun challenged me, soon after the election last month and in the spirit of feminism, to program more organ and piano music by female composers during Advent. I am taking this challenge all the way and programming ONLY women composers for my preludes and postludes this season. You may miss hearing seasonal favorites like Bach's *Wachet auf*; but I hope you've enjoyed hearing some new arrangements as I highlight some contemporary and underrepresented composers. For example, I have recorded an [entire playlist of Christmas tunes](#) on our YouTube channel, [STMAA Connection](#), arranged by the living Pacific Northwest composer Lynette Maynard. I am also playing Advent and Christmas pieces by composers Jeanne Demessieux, Rebecca Groom te Velde, Mary Beth Bennett and others. Let me know which pieces you like best!

Here are two popular annual music events coming up at St. Michael's that should excite you:

**Saturday, December 19, 2020, at 7:00 pm –
Lessons & Carols**



This service, while fully pre-recorded, will be streamed via Facebook Live just like our Sunday services. You'll also be able to find it on our YouTube channel to watch at your leisure. This service will feature virtual choir anthems from our youth Choristers and the St. Michael's Singers (including the classic *In the bleak midwinter*), as well as solos and duets by Bach, Handel and more from our four talented and tireless section leaders. You'll also hear plenty of seasonal carols (please sing along from home!) and nine Advent lessons read by members of our choir and clergy. We hope you will join us in watching this traditional annual service.



**Saturday, February 13, 2021 (time TBD) –
Broadway Night!**

Yes, our annual music fundraiser is coming to you again in February, but this time we're going virtual! Alas, no dinner service, but you will still be mightily entertained with Broadway solos and (virtual choir style) group numbers hosted by James Joiner as we present *Love in the Time of Quarantine: A Telethon*. No tickets required! This year, *everyone* can watch our Broadway Night show online (including your friends on the other side of the country) and call or visit our [stmaa.org](#) website to donate to our music program before, during and after the event. Portions of the show will be live, and this is a one-time, one-night-only special event that will NOT be available for later viewing, so don't miss it! Save the date, and we'll keep you posted on a specific start time and a link to watch the show. Thank you in advance for supporting the St. Michael's Music Program!

— Hannah Brewer, Music Director/Organist

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Dear Friends,

As I write to you during this Advent Season, we are immersed in preparations for the 2020 Nativity Play with many of the children and youth of our parish practicing their parts, learning their lines and “letting their light shine!” It is with great joy and a bit of trepidation that we are embarking on a new adventure called a “Virtual Nativity Play!”



These long months of COVID-19 have been hard for so many reasons, and it has been heartbreaking to be so long away from the children and families of St. Michael's who I normally see on a weekly basis. So, even though the learning curve is steep for this non-techy Sunday School teacher, it has been joyous and life-giving to once again share with the children (albeit virtually) on our journey to Bethlehem – giving thanks for the gift of God's love and the wonder of technology and Zoom!

The recording of *DO NOT BE AFRAID*, our 2020 Nativity Play, will be posted on the St. Michael's website for all to see on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm – the same time that for many years we have celebrated the Family Christmas Eve service and the blessed arrival of the Christ Child.

May you and your family always know the nearness of God's love. Blessings to you and all you hold dear in this Holy Season.

— Leslie Sackett,
Associate for Ministry with Children & Ministry

YOUTH NEWS

The youth group at St. Michael's has been meeting since COVID became our new reality. During the fall of 2019, we had so many youth showing up to youth group, it was amazing! We had good dinners, thoughtful check-ins and rousing games in St. Michael's House. And then in the spring, we started meeting on Zoom. It was new and fun and worked pretty well. We took a normal break in the summer, and the group met several times in person early this fall for some socially distanced and masked kickball games.



But as COVID numbers increased and the weather got cooler, the youth group came back to meeting on Zoom. This time it felt different. The number of youth logging on dwindled. And who could blame them?

After hours of Zoom class time and more homework (on the computer), getting online for another Zoom activity just seems like it's too much.

But just like everything this year, I'll take whatever positive social interaction I can get. We've learned some new ways to engage online by playing games and getting a peek into our personal lives. I've enjoyed meeting pets and seeing siblings and parents in the background. We chat about what this pandemic feels like and what it means in regards to our faith. We talk about school and new ways of experiencing band, P.E. classes and friend gatherings. The youth also seem entertained by teaching the "old people" how to play online video games like *Among Us*. But it's just not the same.

As a youth group leader, I want to send a message to our youth:

***We care about you!** We are encouraging you through this tough time. This is hard, and you're not alone. We're here if you need to talk or just to be in each other's company. And most of all, we miss you. Come say hi anytime you're ready. And don't forget our Christmas party is happening on December 20th at 5:00 pm. We'll be making individual gingerbread RVs.*

— Jennifer McBratney and the St. Michael's Youth Group cohort



OFFERING A SACRED WELCOME A TWO-SESSION WORKSHOP ON IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

In the midst of our Advent preparations to welcome Jesus, we are already turning toward Epiphany, when Jesus' divinity is revealed by the Three Wise Men who bring him precious gifts from afar. Shortly after their visit, an angel appears to Joseph and tells him to flee to Egypt with Mary and the baby to avoid Herod's death threats. With this flight, Jesus and his family become refugees in another land. We know from Coptic Christian writings that the family was welcomed, given shelter and aid until called by an angel to return to Israel after Herod's death.



Today, refugees and immigrant families continue to flee oppression, seeking safety and a better life in other countries. Unfortunately, their welcome to our country is too often marred by prejudice and injustices. The Episcopal Church is clear that our mission is to offer a sacred welcome to immigrants and refugees and to work toward immigrant justice. But just how do we do this? What are we called to do as Episcopalians and members of St. Michael's?

The Immigrant Welcoming Congregation (IWC) team will give a two-session virtual workshop, *Offering a Sacred Welcome: Reflection & Action Toward Immigrant Justice* on Sundays, January 31 & February 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm via Zoom. This workshop was developed by the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMiJ) in partnership with the Oregon Diocese Commission on Sanctuary and modified by your IWC team to be offered by Zoom.

Please save the dates! The workshop is open to all members but we especially want to encourage those who may be less familiar with what it means to be a sanctuary church, approved by St. Michael's Vestry in fall 2015, or who just want to learn more about St. Michael's immigrant-justice ministry to register. Look for registration information in the Weekly Messenger/eblast in January. If you have questions before then, please contact Gillian Butler at gibu7098@aol.com or 503/679-3450, or Bev Hoeffler at hoefferb@msn.com or 503/238-0534.

— Bev Hoeffler, on behalf of the IWC team

OUTREACH & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

This year has certainly been a different one! And Advent at St. Michael's is different, too. The Giving Tree, anticipated by many, is missing. But the Outreach & Justice Council is still fulfilling its mission of outreach to those small, often local ministries for which our funds make a welcome difference. If instead of the tree tags you would like to give a gift to some of them, the Council has confidence that the five agencies below fit that description. As you ponder your Advent giving, look over the short descriptions below; go to their websites to learn more, and make a donation.

1. Housed in a UCC church in the Concordia neighborhood and under the auspices of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), **the HIV Day Center** is a drop-in center for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. Services are curtailed during this epidemic, but the center still offers meals, restrooms and a smile. Usually their services include showers, laundry, counseling, clothing, computer use, foot and hair care, activities and a warm place to gather. For information and to donate, go to <http://www.hivdaycenter.org/>.
2. Remember the yummy olive oil and tapenades we bought during past Advent Fairs? **Canaan Fair Trade**, founded by a Palestinian-American, is a collective for hundreds of Palestinian olive farmers who grow their crops sustainably and organically and sell at fair-trade prices. Go to www.canaanfairtrade.com and order oil, masks and more.
3. Who doesn't love baby chicks and goats? They're not just cute – they're a gift that keeps giving! The Episcopal Relief and Development's (ERD) **Gifts for Life** is a program that offers a way for struggling families in other countries to have meat, eggs, milk and the animals' progeny to nourish and sustain them into the future. Prices vary, but all donations are life-sustaining. Go to <http://episcopalrelief.org>, scroll down to Gifts for Life, and visit the catalog for giving options.

ADVOCACY ACTION

Oregon's statewide eviction and foreclosure moratorium has been one of the most successful remedies for communities bearing the brunt of the pandemic according to a recent op-ed printed in the Oregonian. It was written by leaders of the Oregon Food Bank, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and the Oregon Law Center.

Now Oregon must take action to prevent a new wave of mass displacement and homelessness as we enter the coldest months of winter. The state's eviction moratorium is set to expire on Dec. 31, just as federal food assistance may end for



4. Portland businessman Homer Williams was inspired by a San Antonio project for helping the homeless and started **Harbor of Hope** here in town. Oregon Harbor of Hope opened a homeless shelter under the Broadway Bridge and presently has two box trailers providing shower and laundry facilities to the homeless folks in downtown or SE Portland. They have purchased land on NE Glisan and plan to construct over 200 affordable apartments for low-income residents. Go to <https://oregonharborofhope.org/> for information and donation opportunities.
5. Under the sponsorship of Salt and Light Lutheran Church, **EcoFaith** is a tiny organization with one half-time and one quarter-time employee, and it has been hard-hit by the COVID pandemic. It primarily seeks to develop leadership and community organizing skills through centering spiritual practices and working toward efforts such as the recent passage of the Portland Clean Energy Fund, Just Vote, and encouraging faith communities to sequester carbon in the soil. To donate, go to <http://www.ecofaithrecovery.org/give-to-ecofaith-recovery-2/>.

May these ideas stir your hearts to help those less fortunate than we are, and may your holiday season be bright!

— Your friends serving in the Outreach & Justice Ministries Council.

tens of thousands of Oregonians and as we grapple with a new wave of COVID-prompted closures and shutdowns.

Please contact your state legislators, either by phone or email, and ask them to: 1) hold an emergency session of the state legislature in December; and 2) extend the eviction moratorium at least until the end of the school year.

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of advocacy actions in the past, including the Sundays when so many of you signed letters after church. During the shutdown, we need to take this new approach in order to continue to advocate for important issues.

— Cheryl Braginsky & Marili Reilly

ADOPTING A NURSING HOME STAFF

Last spring, a national news anchor, covering the raging COVID infections and deaths in nursing homes, challenged viewers to respond to this tragedy. “Find a nursing home in your community and contact them,” she said. “Ask them what they need and then adopt their staff and support them so they can keep residents healthy and alive.” Janet Robinson was one of those viewers and, with the help of a geriatric social worker, found Creekside Rehab and Nursing Home. After making contact with the Director of Nursing, who began crying upon hearing there were people in the community who knew about Creekside and wanted to help, Janet was given a list of things that would be supportive to staff.



With list in hand, Janet recruited Christine Lentz, Meg Ruby, Gretta Grimala, Joan Meyeroff, Marili Reilly, Paula Raines and Janet’s husband Dick Huneke, as well as a couple of her neighbors to join in the effort. “Reaching out to Creekside feels like this is what carrying out of my Baptismal covenant really means,” says Janet. Since beginning in May, the “Angels,” as Janet refers to them, have visited Creekside about twice a month, masked and safely distant from each other and Creekside employees going into and coming out of the facility. Using posters and noise-makers, the Angels have cheered at shift changes. Many visits have included bringing goodie bags for employees with individualized notes, as well as posters and flowers for the break room. Sometimes members have brought pastries, pizza or bowls of fruit. The St. Michael’s Youth Group contributed very creative posters used for cheers. Masks were made for use by employees without direct resident contact and for residents who could leave their rooms. A permanent inspirational message sign was installed on the employee entrance door and an appreciation sign was installed in front of Creekside.

Creekside is a 40-bed rehab center and residential nursing facility located at SE 48th Ave. and Belmont Ave. It employs approximately 40 people, although many are part-time workers. It has been described as a “humble place with a dedicated hard-working staff.” Many parishioners may remember Carol Loe, who lived at Creekside for a time. When the Angels started visiting Creekside in May, the facility was COVID-free. By mid-August, several employees and residents had

contracted COVID. As a result, about 15 employees resigned or went on sick leave, and three residents died. Exposed residents were sent temporarily to a quarantine facility and returned after they were deemed healthy. This experience was a blow to the whole staff and frightening to residents, their families and employees alike.

New hires have since joined the staff and picked up the work quickly and willingly, according to the Nursing Director’s report. After COVID began, the Angels decided that now more than ever Creekside needed support, so goodie bags, treats and cheers have continued with added precautions taken for delivering goodie bags and food. Since the fall holidays began, the Angels have celebrated Halloween with pizza and candy on Halloween eve; and pies, whipped cream, ice cream and cheers were delivered on the day before Thanksgiving. Plans are in the works for a Christmas delivery in mid-December, and something for New Year’s Eve.

COVID at Creekside has subsided after a second wave in early October. Currently, employees know the Angels when they arrive and come out on the front porch waving, laughing and shouting “thanks” to the group. A quick chat between one of the Angels and an employee is not unusual now during a delivery or cheer. A Creekside nurse told one of the Angels that these visits showed her that someone finally understood the strain the staff was under during this pandemic, an understanding that even her husband and friends did not seem to share.

The sheer joy of being able to reach out and offer appreciation and encouragement to a hard working group of front-line workers who care for our older citizens is felt each time a visit occurs. The Angels jump in with ideas for upcoming visits, offer donations and share in the work to make each event go smoothly. Being in the presence of and working with each other is another nourishing benefit of this adoption project, which takes place in the Creekside parking lot. If you are interested in supporting some of our front-line workers and having fun doing it, please join us by contacting Janet Robinson at 503/756-6016. Participation and/or donations are very welcome. If you like to post pictures and updates on Facebook, the Angels could use you. Communication is via email. Not everyone can attend each visit, and some of the Angels contribute without joining the visits. You might even think about finding another nursing home and forming your own team.



— Janet Robinson and the Creekside Angels

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1704 NE 43rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97213-1402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

For now, generally 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call or email before coming over: 503/284-7141 or office@stmaa.org.

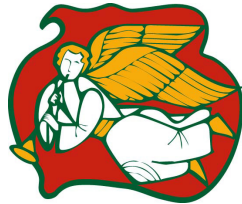


CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- DEC. 19-24 **Las Posadas (check stmaa.org for nightly videos)**
- DEC. 19 **Lessons & Carols (virtual)**
- DEC. 20 **1:00 pm Misa service includes honoring those who have died**
Youth Group Christmas party (Zoom)

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

- 4:00 PM **Nativity Play (pre-recorded)**
- 6:00 PM ***Vigilia de Navidad en español (pre-gravado)***
- 8:30 PM **Christmas Eve service in English, beginning with carols (live)**
- 10:30 PM **Christmas Eve service replayed, or watch at will**



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

- 10:00 AM **Christmas Day service (pre-recorded)**

BURRITO LOVE

Since September, on the last Saturday of each month, St. Michael's angels have been handing out 100 fresh, warm, tasty burritos to our community. If you have participated in the Community Meal and/or 2nd Saturday Lunch in the past, you might recognize some of our guests. As church social gatherings are on hold, we gather for a couple of hours in the courtyard regardless of weather. The burritos are prepared by Jassiel, the chef at Super Torta on Woodstock, owned by longtime St. Michael's parishioners Armando and Kenya Cruz. Super Torta has generously discounted the price of their burritos, and we couldn't do this without their support.



If you want to be involved in this community meal, please contact me. You can also make a donation [on the St. Michael's website](http://stmaa.org) (stmaa.org) indicating that the community meal is the purpose of your

donation. Our next Burrito Love event will take place on Saturday, December 19, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

— Hjalmer Lofstrom, lenabl6769@gmail.com