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Dear Friends,

June 18, 2023

I am writing to you during my flight “home” to Texas for one last time. Over the next couple of weeks, Tami and I will pack up, sell the house, scoop up Enzo the dog and drive our other car to the City of Roses.

This will not be my last trip to Houston, I am reasonably sure. Our son will remain there, for one. And, cherished friends – some of whom we have known for more than 20 years. (Some really good food and music and art, too, by the way!) We have done a lot of living in a town we once couldn’t imagine inhabiting for even a few years! And it has given space for some big highs and deep lows over the years. Like homes do.

After sharing these first few weeks with the people of St. Michael & All Angels, I’ve been filled with wonder and joy at the call to enter ministry with you. Since mid-May, I have met with more than 130 folks in small group meet-ups, another 25 or so in one-on-ones with parish leaders, and lots more at receptions and coffee hours and in ministry meetings. There have been stories of good memories and rich ministries, and expressions of hopes and dreams about the future. YOU are inspiring, friends; and I am so excited to embrace this community and begin walking together into God’s future for us.

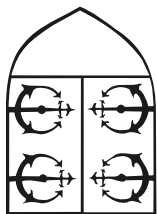
Very soon, I won’t call Houston or Texas home anymore. I am leaving with a heart overflowing with gratitude for all that has been, including serving two wonderful congregations in the Lone Star State. I am also filled with hope for all that awaits us as priest and people of St. Michael’s. There are highs and lows ahead, for sure. And we will embrace it all together.

I’ll be home soon.

Affectionately,

Scott+

The Rev. Scott Painter, Rector



R. Scott Painter, Rector	Ext. 312	Brian Fairbanks, Choir Director	Ext. 315
Roberto Arciniega, Associate Rector	Ext. 316	Hannah Brewer, Music Director/Organist	Ext. 315
Gloria Orellana, Office Administrator	Ext. 317	Leslie Sackett, Associate for Children & Families	Ext. 318
JT Quanbeck, Website & Livestreaming		Manuel Luna, Facilities Assistant	
Jackie Van Anda, Bookkeeper	Ext. 320		

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED . . .

- + for healing and comfort for **Joe Afryl, Mark Allen, Barack Holt Newton, Mark Jones, Caroline Litzenberger, David Pace, Bob & Esther Pyle, Melissa Reeves, Marion Robbins, Lin Robertson and Marlana Stoddard Hayes.**



The following prayers have previously appeared in the eblast; however, they are repeated here in case they were missed.

- + for the repose of the soul of **H. Owen Moses**, who died on June 13, and for his daughter **Lynda Moses**;
- + for the repose of the soul of **Colleen Green**, who died on April 16, and for her daughter **Helen Crandell**;
- + for the repose of the soul of **Suzanne Broertjes**, who died on April 8, and for her sister **Marion Robbins**.

*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.*

- + in thanksgiving for the birth of **Esther Kathryn Heater-Sackett**, who was born on June 2, and for her parents **Avery Heater** and **Audrey Sackett** and her grandparents in their joy;
- + in thanksgiving for the X Vera of **Daniella Pasos Aké** on June 17;
- + in thanksgiving for the baptism of **Mateo Martínez Aguilar** on June 10;
- + and in thanksgiving for the first communions of **Gemsey, Deborah Daneth, Isabella, Joseph Emmanuel and Jonathan José** on June 10.

## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

### PRAYER CHAIN

If you or someone in your life is in need of prayer, please let us know. If there's a death in your family or if you or someone you love is in the hospital, contact the church office at [office@stmaa.org](mailto:office@stmaa.org) or 503/284-7141, and your message will be sent on to the prayer-chain administrator and/or the rector. You can also reach the rector directly at [scott@stmaa.org](mailto:scott@stmaa.org).

## EXPANDING OUR COLUMBARIUM

St. Michael's is a place of meaning for us all. Our Columbarium, installed in 1995, holds the ashes of deceased parishioners. Last year, we realized that all the spaces (niches) in the current unit had been purchased. It was time to expand – and we were in an interim time. The vestry authorized moving forward in March 2022, and in October 2022 approved the committee's proposal. Columbarium Reserve Funds were available for this next step. This funding resource was established in the original plan.

The Columbarium Team began its work on April 11, 2022. We decided early on not to build anything higher than the current unit. Then we realized that the columbarium room with its wonderful vaulting would be enhanced with a matching unit on the sacristy (east) wall. This involved creating a different entrance into the sacristy area.

As of June 2023, the remodeling has been accomplished including a fresh coat of paint throughout (including the sacristy). Our craftsman Brion



Kimmel is now building the new units to match the original unit, which he built 25 years ago. Unit #2 (matching) will have another 80 niches. Unit #3 will have an additional 24 niches, plus a substantial receptacle for Common Burial of ashes for those who prefer this mode of internment here at our church. Remaining work includes installation of baseboards and door trim.

Thank you to a superb Columbarium Team: Jim Robbins, Jennie Street, Jane Peters, Michael Sagun and John Scannell, Convenor. Our adjuncts include Bob Spiers (history), Carl Braginsky (properties), Brion Kimmel (craftsman) and Dennis Thompson (architect). Thanks to many others who have assisted with this project.

— John Scannell

### PHOTOS

As you know, we take a lot of photos at St. Michael's, and at times they appear in the eblast, Messenger, on the Gallery bulletin board and on Instagram. If we identify people at all, it's usually by first name only, and we never identify children. We also try not to share unflattering photos : ). This being said, if you would prefer that we not publish a photo of you or your child/ren, please let Gloria in the office know, at [glorio@stmaa.org](mailto:glorio@stmaa.org) or [office@stmaa.org](mailto:office@stmaa.org).

Speaking of Instagram, we have upped our game since Scott+ arrived with his social-media savvy. If you want to see more photos and stay up-to-date on events at St. Michael's, consider joining Instagram or adding St. Michael's to those you already follow, at [st.michaelallangels](https://www.instagram.com/st.michaelallangels).

## MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATES

While our choirs recuperate from a busy choral season, including our smashing Broadway Night fundraiser on June 2-3 (photos below), it's time for summer soloists! At our 10:00 am Sunday services, you'll hear fiddle, flute, baritone and tenor soloists, small-choir ensembles and much more. On Pride Sunday (July 16), a pickup choir will sing *We Walk in Love* from the Justice Choir Songbook. For the Transfiguration on August 6, tenor Palmer Haffner will reprise his moving solo from Broadway Night, *Beautiful City* from *Godspell*. Expect variety and musical skill this summer.

We're dubbing August 13 "Organ Sunday," as retired organ builder Cliff Fairley and St. Michael's organist Hannah Brewer join forces to teach our young people (and any others who are interested) about the organ. This includes a hands-on demo of our large pipe organ, as well as an opportunity to build a small scale (playable!) version – thanks to a kit from Orgelkids USA that was a smash hit last summer.

We're hosting something a little different at St. Michael's on Wednesday, August 16, at 7:00 pm – a special chamber choir concert as part of Portland's annual William Byrd Festival. *And Byrds do sing - Byrd's Music at Home* will be sung by the Byrd Festival consort, directed by Dr. Ross Duffin, Professor Emeritus at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Among the general public of a certain age, Duffin is perhaps best known as the long-time host and producer of *Micrologus: Exploring the World of Early Music* (NPR, 1980-1998). Advance tickets for this concert are available to purchase at [cantores.ticketleap.com](http://cantores.ticketleap.com)

If you have been thinking about joining one of our church choirs, now would be a great time to reach out to Hannah to learn more as she and Choir Director Brian Fairbanks start planning for the fall. The 30-voice St. Michael's Singers rehearses every Wednesday, September through May, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and sings every Sunday morning, except in the summer. This choir also sings for special services like Evensongs and Lessons & Carols. They sing a wide variety of repertoire from Renaissance motets to high Anglican anthems to complex gospel arrangements. Prior choral experience and the ability to read music is recommended. And yes, you can still join if you are frequently absent due to traveling!

If a weekly commitment is too much, try the Saints & Singers Choir, which rehearses and sings about once per month, except in summer. This choir focuses on simpler, catchy arrangements and has a more informal, folksy style. Prior choral experience is not required.

If your youngster loves to sing, consider having them become a Chorister! We'll have more information about age requirements and rehearsal times in the coming months. Please encourage your child to sing any chance they get. Every voice is welcome in our pews!

Curious about when you'll get to hear the full choral experience again at St. Michael's? September 10th is the date we'll return to 9:00 and 11:00 am service times from one 10:00 am sung service and will be the debut of our 2023-2024 choral season. Stay tuned for more musical announcements. Have a restful summer!

— Hannah Brewer, Music Director & Organist

## BROADWAY NIGHT 2023



## UPDATE FROM OUR TREASURER

As we approach the mid-point of 2023, it is a good time to provide an update of where St. Michael's is with regard to its finances. First and foremost, you have been incredibly generous in response to calls to support a going-away remembrance for Fr. Sherman and in support of the call for funds to reimburse Rev. Scott and family's moving costs. Some of you have paid your 2023 pledge in advance, and others have asked if they should consider doing so. You all are really the best!!

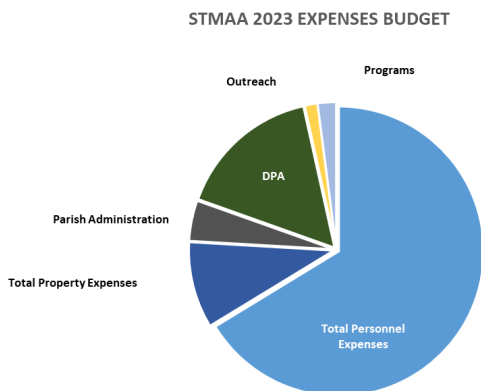


### A LOOK at the BUDGET

Considering what we expected to receive in terms of pledge and open-offering income, we are very close to our estimate at this point in the year. Usually we head into the summer running further behind than this year. The early pledge payoffs have helped in this regard. We are monitoring our expenses very carefully. St. Michael's staff have responded with ways they believe expenses can be reduced in their operational areas. Some projects have been put on temporary hold. We received some late billings for work done on the latter part of 2022 that have caused our general property-maintenance costs to be over budget.

So while the financial news is not all full of cautionary warnings, the gap between expected revenues and expenditures in our Operations Fund that was a part of the budget when it was approved continues to be with us.

As a memory refresher, it will be recalled that the Vestry-approved budget for the 2023 Operating Fund included a \$92,000 difference between our planned revenues and expenditures – our budget gap. Pledges, open offerings, and special gifts earmarked for operating costs or not earmarked for specific purposes are income to the Operating Fund. Expenses to the Operating Fund are staff and clergy salaries and benefits, utility costs, routine maintenance items, insurance, cleaning and supplies. Our Diocesan Program Assessment (DPA) is also a part of our Operating Fund budget. The DPA is paid to the diocese and supports their operations. This graphic shows the distribution of our 2023 Operating Fund expenses in the approved budget.



Essentially, the Operating Fund keeps the doors to St. Michael's open and is an underlying support to all of our ministries. That last part can't be overemphasized. As St. Michael's strives to do God's

work in our neighborhood and the world, it is our Operating Fund that underlies all of that good work.

St. Michael's also maintains several mission- or project-oriented funds. Our Building Fund, Outreach Fund, Endowment Fund and Columbarium Fund are examples of these funds. These funds hold contributions made for the specific purpose of the fund. If a donation is made to the Building Fund for example, no part of that donation may be used for another purpose. We don't budget for those funds like we do for the Operating Fund. If a project is proposed that envisions the use of monies held in one of the non-operating funds, Vestry looks at the fund balance and potential future expenditures from the fund in making its approval decision.

St. Michael's also maintains an Undesignated Bequest Fund. This fund holds gifts or bequests that are made without a specific purpose attached to them. The Undesignated Bequest fund has been used for a variety of projects. Some recent examples include technology upgrades and special conferences. This fund is also used to cover any shortages in the Operating Fund.

Why do we have our current funding gap? What's different about this year?

For the past several years, expenses have slightly exceeded our pledge and offering income. For a few years, we received grants from the diocese to help support our Latino ministry. During the pandemic, we received Payroll Protection Program loans that turned into grants. We have also received some generous one-time bequests from parishioners to support the operating costs.

The pandemic has not been kind to us in terms of church attendance. In 2022, there were 205 individuals and families who pledged at St. Michael's. In 2023, that number is 169, a reduction of about 17%. Every church that goes through a rector transition experiences a temporary downturn in pledge and offering income. So the answer to the two questions above is that we haven't identified a supplementary source of income to supplement our pledges and offerings, and we are experiencing the lingering effects of the pandemic and the rector transition.

When folks are thinking about giving money to St. Michael's, or any church, they think first in terms of ministries or projects they would like to support. The recent generosity of St. Michael's parishioners support the validity of that observation. When a specific need is identified, St. Michael's folks respond!

Now we are asking you to consider turning your generosity to our Operating Fund. Consider the Operating Fund as the foundation or part of the infrastructure that makes our ministries possible. Our "gap" is about 17% of our expected pledge and offering income. If everyone could increase their pledge and offering giving by 10% to 15% that would be great. Sometimes we talk about adding a 13th month, or 8%.

That works also. If our gap is prorated over all of the individuals and families pledging for 2023, it turns out that an additional \$545 per pledging unit would completely close the gap. We ask this as we, looking forward, are thinking about ways to better align our planned expenditures with sustainable levels of income.

You can help to fill our gap by dropping a check in the offering plate, or mailing a check to the office. Just mark “fill the gap” on the check so we can distinguish it from your regular pledge. You can also donate online by going to this site <https://stmaa.org/our-parish/giving-and-donating/>. Just click on the “Donate to St. Michael’s Ministries” and you will be directed to the donation site. Once there, look for the “fill the gap” donation option.

This wouldn’t be St. Michael’s if the next thing was to go unsaid. Economic and family situations mean that many of us can’t increase our giving to St. Michael’s to the levels noted above. That’s OK!! We completely understand!! We are all in different seasons of life. If you can chip in an additional 15%, great – we will be glad to accept your contribution and put it toward the important work being done at St. Michael’s. If you find you can’t do the 15%, just see what you can do to help out and we will gratefully accept your generosity. The most important thing is that you stay engaged with us and continue to contribute to the spiritual enrichment that is St. Michael’s.

These are exciting times at St. Michael’s. Our transition time is ending, we are regaining our footing after the pandemic, and we are thrilled about welcoming our new rector, the Rev. R. Scott Painter. If you are among those of us that have kind of drifted away during the pandemic or the transition, now is a good time to check us out again. Please give us another look! We would be excited to reengage with you.

Blessings,

— Dave Reilly, Treasurer to the Vestry

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## ULTIMAS NOTICIAS DEL TESORERO

Al acercarnos a la mitad del 2023, es un buen momento para tener una actualización de cómo se encuentra San Miguel con respecto a sus finanzas. En primer lugar, ha sido increíblemente generosa la respuesta para apoyar el darle un regalo de despedida del padre Sherman. Y también el apoyo para reunir fondos y reembolsar al padre Scott por los costos de la mudanza con su familia. Algunos de ustedes han pagado ya su compromiso de 2023 por adelantado y otros han preguntado si deberían considerar hacerlo. ¡Todos ustedes son realmente increíbles!

Teniendo en cuenta lo que esperábamos recibir en términos de ingresos por su Promesa y por la ofrenda dominical, estamos muy cerca de la meta para esta mitad de año. Por lo general, al iniciar el verano estaríamos un poco más atrasados que este año. Los primeros pagos de las promesas han ayudado en este sentido. Estamos monitoreando nuestros

gastos muy cuidadosamente. El personal de San Miguel ha respondido en formas por las que se cree pueden reducir los gastos en sus áreas de operación. Algunos proyectos se han suspendido temporalmente. También recibimos algunas facturas atrasadas por el trabajo realizado a finales de 2022 que han provocado que los costos generales de mantenimiento de nuestra propiedad superen el presupuesto.

Así que, aún con las buenas noticias financieras, la distancia entre los ingresos y los gastos en nuestro fondo de operaciones continúa hasta el presente como se veía al aprobar el presupuesto.

Como recordatorio, el presupuesto aprobado por la Junta Parroquial para el Fondo Operativo 2023 incluía una diferencia de \$92,000 entre nuestros ingresos y gastos planificados. Las promesas, ofrendas y donaciones especiales destinadas a costos operativos o no destinadas a propósitos específicos son ingresos del Fondo Operativo. Los gastos del Fondo operativo son los salarios y beneficios del personal y del clero, los costos de los servicios públicos, los artículos de mantenimiento de rutina y los suministros. Nuestra Donación al Programa Diocesano (DPA) también es parte de nuestro presupuesto del Fondo Operativo. El DPA se paga a la diócesis y apoya sus operaciones. La siguiente gráfica muestra la distribución de nuestros gastos del Fondo Operativo 2023 en el presupuesto aprobado.

fundamental para todos nuestros ministerios. Esa última parte no se puede dejar de enfatizar. Mientras San Miguel se sigue esforzando por hacer el trabajo de Dios en nuestro vecindario y en el mundo, es nuestro Fondo Operativo el que sustenta todo ese buen trabajo.

San Miguel también mantiene varios fondos orientados a misiones o proyectos. Nuestro Fondo de Construcción, Fondo del Compromiso con la Comunidad, Fondo Memorial, Fondo del Columbario, estos son ejemplos de fondos. Cada uno contienen aportes hechos para el propósito específico del fondo. Si se hace una donación al Fondo de Construcción, por ejemplo, ninguna parte de esa donación puede usarse para otro propósito. No presupuestamos esos fondos como lo hacemos con el Fondo Operativo. Si se propone un proyecto que prevé el uso de dinero destinado en uno de los fondos no operativos, la Junta Parroquial analiza el saldo del fondo y los posibles gastos futuros del fondo para tomar su decisión de aprobación.

San Miguel, también mantiene un fondo memorial no designado. Este fondo contiene donaciones o legados que se hacen sin un propósito específico. El fondo memorial no designado se ha utilizado para una variedad de proyectos. Algunos ejemplos recientes: remodelación del baño principal, actualizaciones tecnológicas y conferencias especiales. Este fondo también se utiliza para cubrir cualquier escasez en el Fondo Operativo. *(continúa en la siguiente página)*

¿Por qué tenemos una diferencia financiera en el presupuesto actual? ¿Qué es diferente este año?

Durante los últimos años, los gastos han excedido ligeramente nuestra promesa y los ingresos de la ofrenda. Durante algunos años recibimos subvenciones de la diócesis para ayudar a apoyar nuestro ministerio latino. Durante la pandemia recibimos préstamos del Programa de Protección para Nómina que se convirtieron en subvenciones. También hemos recibido algunas donaciones generosas de feligreses para apoyar los costos operativos.

La pandemia ha sido difícil para nosotros en términos de asistencia a la iglesia. En 2022 hubo 205 personas y familias que se comprometieron en San Miguel. En 2023 ese número es 169, una reducción de alrededor del 17%. Cada iglesia que pasa por una transición de Rector experimenta una disminución temporal en los ingresos por promesas y ofrendas. Así que, la respuesta a las dos preguntas anteriores es que no hemos identificado una fuente de ingresos adicional para complementar nuestras promesas y ofrendas, y estamos experimentando los efectos persistentes de la pandemia y la transición del Rector.

Cuando la gente está pensando en dar dinero a San Miguel, o a cualquier iglesia, primero piensan en términos de ministerios o proyectos que les gustaría apoyar. La generosidad reciente de los feligreses de San Miguel respalda la validez de esa observación. Cuando se identifica una necesidad específica, ¡la gente de San Miguel responde!

Ahora les pedimos que consideren su generosidad hacia nuestro Fondo Operativo. Considerar el Fondo Operativo como la base o parte de la infraestructura que hace posible nuestros ministerios. Nuestra “diferencia” es de alrededor del 17% de nuestros ingresos esperados por promesas y ofrendas. Si todos pudieran aumentar su compromiso y sus ofrendas entre un 10 % y un 15 %, sería genial. A veces hablamos de agregar un mes 13, o un 8%. Eso también funciona. Si nuestra diferencia se comparte entre todas las personas y familias que se comprometieron para 2023, resulta que \$545 adicionales por promesa, eliminaría la diferencia por completo. Preguntamos esto ya que, mirando hacia el futuro, estamos pensando en formas de planificar nuestros gastos con niveles sostenibles de ingresos.

Pueden ayudarnos a eliminar esta diferencia, depositando un cheque en la ofrenda o enviando un cheque por correo a la oficina. Simplemente marque “para eliminar la diferencia” en el cheque para que podamos distinguirlo de su promesa. También pueden donar en línea visitando este sitio <https://stmaa.org/our-parish/giving-and-donating/>. Simplemente haga clic en “Donar a los Ministerios de San Miguel” y será dirigido al sitio de donación. Una vez allí, busque la opción de donación “fill the gap”.

No sería San Miguel si no decimos lo siguiente: Las situacio-

nes económicas y familiares significan que muchos de nosotros no podemos aumentar nuestras donaciones a San Miguel, para anivelar nuestro presupuesto como mencionados anteriormente. ¡Está bien! ¡Lo entendemos completamente! Todos estamos en diferentes situaciones de vida. Si pueden contribuir con un 15% adicional, genial, estaremos encantados de aceptar su contribución y destinarla al trabajo tan importante que se está realizando en San Miguel. Si no pueden cubrir con el 15 %, vean qué pueden hacer para ayudar y aceptaremos con gratitud su generosidad. Lo más importante es que se mantengan comprometidos con nosotros y continúen contribuyendo al enriquecimiento espiritual en San Miguel.

Estamos en momentos muy emocionantes en San Miguel. Nuestro tiempo de transición está terminando, estamos recuperando el equilibrio después de la pandemia y estamos encantados de dar la bienvenida a nuestro nuevo Rector, el Reverendo Scott Painter. Si uds. están entre los que nos hemos alejado durante la pandemia o la transición, ahora es un buen momento para repensar nuevamente. ¡Por favor consideren de nuevo a San Miguel! Estamos emocionados por volver a comprometernos con usted.

Bendiciones,

Dave Reilly, Tesorero de la Junta Parroquial

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## OUTREACH & JUSTICE

Outreach and Justice has been busy looking into opportunities to be helpful to ministries which are helping the houseless. Groups in direct contact with those in need are of special interest to us, and we have sent funds to We Shine (tiny houses), Street Medicine (medical needs for street folks), and the Blanchet House (respectful feeding program and much more). In addition, we helped NW Pilot Project in its efforts to find housing for houseless senior citizens, and Vision to Learn for eyeglasses and exams for kids in need.

Internationally, some funds went to Palestine through Episcopal Relief & Development; to Kenya for Quilts for Empowerment, among others; and a new endeavor for us, One Acre Fund. Its focus is to help small farmers (mostly women) in nine countries in rural east and southern Africa, furnishing seed, fertilizer and other farm supplies, along with offering help in best practices and tree-planting. Nutrition is improved for the entire family, as well as the benefits of increased income.

We are proud and grateful that we can offer this help to those who need so much. If any of you would like to join us, we'd be glad to have more voices and ideas. We meet in person at St. Michael's on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00. If you have any questions about our committee and our goals, please reach out to one of us.

— Lynn Baker and Susan Barnett, co-conveners

## WELCOMING THE STRANGER: FREDDY ZELEDÓN & HIS FAMILY

It was early morning on February 9 when Freddy and Alcides' names were called by the prison guard. Along with 220 other prisoners, they were loaded onto buses whose windows were blacked out with cardboard. Their repeated questions about where they were being taken went unanswered. Freddy and Alcides assumed that they were finally being taken to the place where they would be executed by Nicaraguan officials for their opposition to the current government. It would be nearly 24 hours before Freddy and Alcides would learn their fate. Unbelievably, they were part of a group of political prisoners (now commonly referred to as the *Nicaraguan 222*) whose release had been negotiated by the US State Department. On the airport tarmac, the 222 men and women were passed from Nicaraguan officials to U.S. officials, then loaded onto an airplane and flown to Washington Dulles Airport.

Stripped of citizenship by their homeland and declared “enemies of the state” by the Nicaraguan government, the 222 men and women were processed by the U.S. State Department who tried to match the released prisoners with family members and friends who might receive them in the U.S. Some had a place to go and others did not. Alcides had a son and daughter-in-law in Portland, Oregon; Freddy had no one. Alcides, who had known Freddy in their hometown and in prison, extended the invitation for Freddy to join him in Portland.

As members of St. Michael & All Angels, Alcides' son and daughter-in-law invited them to come to church with them. The men quickly felt at home among the 1:00 pm community. With the encouragement of Padre Beto, they joined the bilingual Lenten Book Study. It was here that Freddy and Alcides would share their story of imprisonment (Alcides for 3+ years and Freddy for almost a year) and the incredible story of their release. Everyone who heard their story felt the Holy Spirit at work in having brought these two men to St. Michael's.

With many needs, and no real support from the US State Department, Freddy and Alcides reached out to the St. Michael's Immigrant Welcoming Congregation ministry (IWC). The IWC began to listen to and problem-solve the many needs that came from being incarcerated and the casualties of forced migration. Most pressing was the need to bring their families to safety in the U.S. Freddy began to report increased harassment toward his family by local police and soldiers. Their house was even graffitied with the word “traitor.”

The only hope for their families was to apply for asylum in the U.S. For this, each family member would require an “economic sponsor; i.e., an individual or organization that guarantees the family will not become a “public charge.” Working in consultation with Episcopal Migration Ministries the IWC learned how St. Michael's as a church could become

an economic sponsor. After researching and discussing what this entailed, the IWC approached the St. Michael's Vestry for approval of a proposal to become the sponsors of Freddy and Alcides' immediate families. The vestry unanimously said yes, and the wheels went into motion.

Freddy was ready! With the needed documents and information in hand, members of the IWC worked (with Padre Beto as St. Michael's official clergy sponsor) to complete the applications for Freddy's wife and three children. Due to the unique circumstances of the Nicaraguan 222, the U.S. State Department expedited the applications, and their travel visas were approved in record time. Within three weeks of submitting their applications, Freddy was reunited at the Portland airport with his family and able to hug them all since his arrest almost a year ago.



Although many hardships have been overcome by Freddy, Karol, Marcelo, Freldyn and Brittany, much struggle is still to come. They have left everything behind in Nicaragua: family, friends, pets, their home, jobs, school and so much more. With only what they could fit into luggage, they now must make a home for themselves in a place where they do not speak the language and where the customs and lifestyle are very different. The IWC is grateful for the support of the vestry to sponsor the Zeledon-Rivera family and to allow them to live in St. Michael's House as they begin the complicated process of finding jobs, finding a new place to live and acclimating to a new environment.

We ask that you pray for Freddy, Karol, Marcelo, Freldyn and Brittany during this challenging time. Once the family has had a chance to catch their breath, we hope that more of you will have the opportunity to meet and get to know them.

The IWC has established a Resettlement Fund not only to help the Zeledon-Rivera family to get settled but for future families seeking asylum. If you would like to make a cash contribution specifically to the Resettlement Fund, you may do so by check (please clearly note “Resettlement Fund” in the memo line) or online at the St. Michael's website (see “support our ministries”). An anonymous donor has generously offered to match the first \$7,500 in donations made to this fund.

For more information regarding the Resettlement Fund or other ways to support the Zeledon-Rivera family, please contact Beth Ilem at [ilemek52@gmail.com](mailto:ilemek52@gmail.com).

— the Immigrant Welcoming Congregation team

## THE RAINBOW INITIATIVE: WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

At the 2022 General Convention, Episcopal Migration Ministries created the Rainbow Initiative to spotlight forced migration of LGBTQ+ people, the issues they face and why we as people of faith should care. St. Michael's Vestry signed on in March 2023 as one of approximately 20 Rainbow Initiative Congregations committed to highlighting this intersectional social-justice issue especially during Pride month in June. As a faith community, we felt called to do so because St. Michael's is both a welcoming congregation to the LGBTQ+ community and an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation. How could we not respond?



To engage our faith community, the Outreach & Justice Council and the Immigrant Welcoming Congregation ministry planned two major events, an adult forum called *In Search of Safety and Community: Forced*

*Migration of LGBTQ+ People*, which was held on Sunday, June 18; and a call to all parishioners to come out and walk in the Pride Parade on Sunday, July 16.

Why is it especially important to pay attention to LGBTQ+ forced migration this year? All you have to do is read or listen to the news to know that LGBTQ+ human rights around the world, including in the U.S., are under assault. Similarly, immigration is under assault as LGBTQ+ people and others flee their countries, or their states in the U.S., because of persecution brought on by shifting social and political attitudes and changing laws. Both gay rights and immigrant justice have long been used as wedge issues to drive people apart and create fear, all of which serve to restrict the human rights of minority groups.

If you missed the adult forum on June 18, please email the office for the video presentation of the forum. The forum was not zoomed or shared on St. Michael's YouTube channel to help protect the safety of the guest speaker whose family still lives in Iran. The video shows the slides of key information about LGBTQ+ forced migration.

— Beverly Hoeffler, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation and Outreach & Justice Council

## PRIDE PARADE ON JULY 16

Don't miss it! The largest, most spectacular, glitziest parade ever is coming soon! The Pride Parade is being held on July 16, and St. Michael's is pulling out all the stops. We have not

## CREATION CARE TEAM

The newly formed St Michael & All Angels Creation Care Team kicked off the spring season with an Earth Day Forum on Sunday, April 23. The forum was designed to help St. Michael's, as well as individual members of the congregation, move toward the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. This is a goal of the National Episcopal Church in general and of our Diocese in particular.



Participating members of the Creation Care team include Becky Tooley, Marili Reilly, Gillian Butler, Lynn Baker, Beth Ilem, Joan Meyerhoff and Cheryl Braginsky. They distributed handouts and gave brief talks about ways to reduce the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. The topics included information on:

- Appliances and Conversion of Energy Sources;
- Pros and Cons of Electric Vehicles;
- Zenith Energy and Dangerous Oil Trains;
- Petition regarding a moratorium on factory farms in Oregon;
- Keystone and Endangered Species;
- The Joy of Gardening with Native and Pollinator-Friendly Plants;
- LED Light Bulbs and Their Benefits;
- Why Switch to Solar Power?
- The 25 Steps Under \$25 and 25 Steps Over \$25 that can reduce CO2;
- and finally, a List of Environmental Resources for Information and Action.

More information on these issues and more will be provided by the Creation Care Team in the coming months.

— Cheryl Braginsky

one but two brand-new banners to display! They are beautiful and will show the world that St. Michael's cares about and celebrates all people everywhere.

With all those banners, we'll need lots of people to walk with us! Be sure to save the date and join us. More information, such as our location and where we'll be in the lineup, will be coming in early July in the eblasts. For more information on the Pride weekend, go to <http://pridenw.org>.

— Lynn Baker, Outreach & Justice



## SENIOR MOMENTS

For many years, we have celebrated our high-school graduates and other graduates in the June edition of the Messenger newsletter. This year, we are proud to include the bios of three accomplished young men. 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!

Many thanks to Christine Lentz, Gloria Orellana and Susie Silva-Strommer, who interviewed these young people and wrote up their bios.

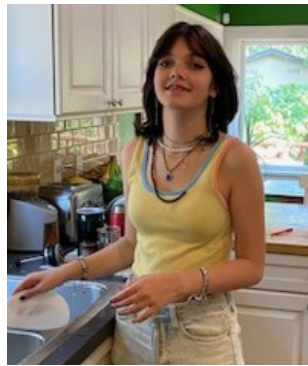
We also want to congratulate the following students who are graduating or promoting.

### FROM BOB & PENNY KREINBERG:

**Annie Vrooman**, our beloved granddaughter, graduated from St Mary's Academy in June and will attend the University of Oregon in the fall. We are so proud of this Portland graduate who has lived her entire life here in Northeast Portland.



**Josephine Vrooman**, another beloved grandchild, is graduating from the 8th grade at St. Rose School and will attend Central Catholic High School this fall. We're so proud of this graduate and pleased she will be here in Northeast Portland for four more years. She dances, plays volleyball and is ready to take on high school.



### FROM MICHELLE IRONS:

**Robert Joseph** is promoting from Vernon K-8 and will attend Benson High School next fall.

**Michaella Joseph** just graduated from her nursing program, but she has to finish a couple of summer courses for her final licensing.

### FROM SHERI O'BRIEN

My granddaughter **Rhiley O'Brien** was baptized at St. Michael's and is moving on from the 5th grade. Next year, she will be attending Portland Christian School.



## WILLIAM BALLARIS

William completed a four-year automotive program and received his CTE certification. He believes that the Benson community creates an especially strong learning environment because it is a magnet school and the students all choose to attend it. The school even built a large shop at the Marshall campus with all new equipment so that the students could continue their courses of study.

This summer, William will be stationed at Colville National Forest in the northeast corner of Washington. He was hired and being trained by the Forest Service as a wildland firefighter. From Colville, he will be shipped out to help wherever he is needed.

In the fall, William will live at home and attend Clackamas Community College, where he plans to major in diesel automotive studies and minor in fire science.

William has attended St. Michael's all his life. His parents are members as are his grandparents, Stuart and Gayle Morris. He served as an acolyte and, along with his sister Weatherly, participated regularly in youth-group activities until they were shut down by the pandemic. He was involved with helping with the lunches for the needy and especially enjoyed the youth-group special activities and outings, like the Christmas parties and trips to Peacock Lane in December.

William is a young man who knows his own mind and is willing to work hard to achieve his goals. Best of luck, William!



*(Senior Moments is continued on the next page.)*

## ANDRÉS FLORES

Andrés Flores has attended St. Michael's since he was five years old! Andrés mainly attended the 1:00 pm Spanish language service but did occasionally attend a morning service. His earliest memories are participating in Godly Play/Children's Liturgy of the Word with Martha and Leslie. It was here that he met other kids at St. Michael's that would go on to be his good friends later on in youth group.



Andrés was a shy boy but still worked up the courage to be an acolyte a few times. As he grew up, he started hanging around the older kids in youth group with his sister Cristina. He remembers playing Bananagrams and helping with the Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers with the older youth and feeling really welcome and included. Even though he wasn't quite yet in high school, Rev. Chris allowed Andrés to participate in the youth mission trip to San Francisco. He is grateful for this since the following mission trip was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Andrés attended Franklin High School for all four years. As a freshman, he tried track and drumline. It was in drumline where he found his place, first playing the bass drum and then the snare drum. As a senior, Andrés would become the snare-drum section leader. In this role, it was his responsibility to provide support to others in his section, to be sure everyone was on point and to help lead the drumline.

In addition to participating in *Step-Up* his freshman year (a program designed to help high school freshmen maximize their high school potential and connect with other students), Andrés applied for and was accepted to *Minds Matter*, a college preparation program. Andrés attended *Minds Matter* every Saturday beginning his sophomore year thru his senior year with students from around the Portland Metro area. Andrés recently graduated from Franklin High School where he was recognized with graduation cords for his excellence in the performing arts (drumline), academics (*Minds Matter*), and fluency in Spanish (State Seal of Biliteracy) as well as a graduation stole for his excellence in Sports Medicine.

Encouraged by his parents, Andrés always knew he wanted to go to college. Taking multiple Advanced Placement classes, Andrés eventually applied to and was accepted to Gonzaga University for the fall of 2023. Andrés is excited to attend Gonzaga where he plans to study engineering. If engineering doesn't turn out to be his passion, then he might consider business or human physiology. Andrés is grateful for the support of the St. Michael's community over the years.

## ELI WATNICK-WIZEMAN

Eli Watnick-Wizeman graduated from McDaniel High School this month. Eli was born in Portland and has lived here all his life. His family includes moms Gail and Margo, a brother Ben (16) and two half-siblings Lida and Simone.

Eli is very active! He began playing soccer at age seven and played through his junior year of high school. At that point, he became interested in track and specialized in javelin and discus. He says athletics are a passion. He became team captain for both club sports and high school teams. Eli qualified to compete for State of Oregon championship track competitions. He competed in javelin at Nationals on June 18.

Eli is not content just to "do sports." He participates in many ways in his community, helping out where he can. He mentioned two community-service activities in which he regularly participates. For the last three or four summers, he has volunteered at East Portland Community Center in summer and winter camps, helping children first through fifth grade participate in sports (volleyball, gymnastics) and arts and crafts. He said this has led him to have a paying job as Lead Camp Counselor. Eli also volunteered in the *Bike First* program at Concordia University, helping individuals with disabilities learn to ride bikes.

Eli believes strongly in helping everyone regardless of their abilities or disabilities. During Covid, when so many structured activities were shut down, Eli helped mow lawns for the elderly in his neighborhood.



Eli will be attending University of Oregon in the fall. He received merit and outside scholarships which made UO a good fit for him. He might be rooming with his cousin! He wants to be on the track team and is familiar with the

beautiful new track and field facility. He was very excited to attend World Championships in Eugene this past year.

Eli says he draws his inspiration from his two moms. One is a special-education teacher, and the other is a physical therapist serving disabled children. He says he has always been encouraged to serve his community and "get out of his comfort zone."

Eli said that he was all set to go on the St. Michael's mission trip with Rev. Chris Craun to Puerto Rico, but the trip was cancelled when Covid hit.

Thinking into the future, Eli says he would like to travel to other parts of the world, so being a teacher with summers off is very enticing.

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

# FAMILY WORSHIP, JUNE 17, 2023

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ALL SUMMER LONG – RAIN OR SHINE!



The seasons may change, but one thing never changes at St. Michael's – WE LOVE CHILDREN! Make worship and fellowship part of your family's summer schedule. There is

always a welcome place for everyone in the family – big, little or in the middle!

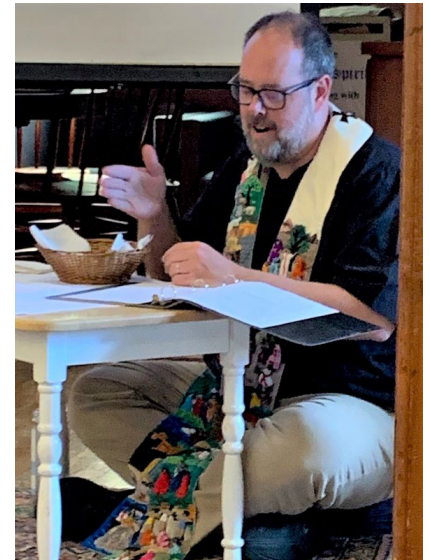


Every summer Sunday **during** the 10 o'clock service:

- Childcare for littles – infants through 5 years
- Children's Liturgy of the Word – stories of the Good News of God's Love
- Children are members of the Body of Christ – welcome to fully participate in the life and worship of St. Michael's!

Every summer Sunday **after** the 10 o'clock service:

- Courtyard fun on sunny Sundays – bubbles, games and cool treats to eat!
- Rainy days (or too hot to play outside) – board games and activities for kids of all ages



## WE ARE TEAM BARACK – SENDING LOVE & STAYING CONNECTED

Our sweet friend, Barack (Rocky) received his bone marrow transplant at Doernbecher Hospital on Monday, June 12, with his mother Emily by his side. They will remain in the hospital for several weeks with Rocky's care team keeping a close eye on his progress. Let's make sure that Barack and Emily know we are thinking of them during this hard time.

Cards and care packages of encouragement can be mailed to:



Doernbecher Children's Hospital  
700 Campus Drive  
Portland OR, 97239  
Att: Barack Newton  
10 South Room 15

\*Please send only store-bought and packaged food items (nothing home-made yet!).

\*\*Barack likes Paw Patrol, cars and dinosaurs; Emily likes butterflies.



— Leslie Sackett, Associate for Ministry with Children & Families

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1704 NE 43rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97213-1402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday  
503/284-7141 or office@stmaa.org.

# THE MESSENGER

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 9	<b>Rector Scott Painter returns from his move</b>
JULY 16	<b>Portland Pride Parade</b>
AUG. 6	<b>Recovery Sunday</b>
AUG. 13	<b>Organ Sunday</b>
AUG. 16	<b>Byrd chamber choir concert</b>
AUG. 20	<b>Foster kids backpack-packing</b>
AUG. 27	<b>Parish picnic</b>
SEPT. 10	<b>Return to full worship schedule with choir</b>

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE AND THE WEEKLY MESSENGER/EBLAST FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS.

## RECENT BOOK PUBLICATION

*The People and The Book: Negotiating Religious Change in the English Reformation and Beyond*

By Caroline Litzenberger

A year ago, St. Michael's parishioner the Rev. Dr. Caroline Litzenberger offered a series of forums here at St. Michael's on the English Reformation and changes in the church from that time to the present. Now that material has been published in this book. It tells the story of the people's experience in dealing with the profound changes in religion during the English Reformation.



However, religion continued to change, or at least to shift in subtle ways. And so, the book's story doesn't end with Elizabeth's death. It continues through key religious developments in England and beyond, answering the question of how the church of Elizabeth's day became the global Anglican church of today. It is available in bookstores and online.

— Caroline Litzenberger