SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

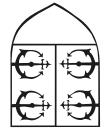


The Messenger

MAILED NOVEMBER 9, 2023

CONTENTS

Your Prayers
Jr. Warden Report 2
Sr. Warden & Vestry 2
Music Program Update 3
St. Brigid's Guild3
Solar Update4
Floor Refinishing4
Outreach & Justice 5
Meals Ministry5
CARBON NEUTRALITY6
Advocacy Action 6
Youth News6
Children & Families 7
Día de los Muertos7
Calendar Highlights8
Lunch Bunch8
Artisan Fair



Dear Friends,

The feasts of All Saints and All Souls are just behind us. We have celebrated the ancestors of this faith and lifted up the memory of all our dearly departed. These remembrances serve as a poignant reminder of the interconnectedness between the living and the departed. The great cloud of witnesses continues to inspire, teach, and guide us as we persist along our own paths in this life. We give thanks for them. We need them.

Over the next few weeks, you will notice a turning in the themes of Sunday readings and the language in liturgies. It will be slow and subtle at first, in these last weeks of the season after Pentecost. Then, with Advent will come more apocalyptic visions and messages: reckoning, unveiling, anticipation. The world is not the good and right place for which we yearn. We know that, of course. The presence of war and strife, poverty and pain is all around us. Many of us are overwhelmed by the perplexity of it all. We've talked about it.

But perhaps it is of some comfort to know that God sees it, too – cares about it, is with us in it, shows us a way in Jesus to something better.

At Christmas, we will greet God's solidarity with all of us in our humanity. God does not leave us to ourselves, but comes among us and bears with us what the world can bring to make life so hard. I have always found in this a great comfort: a God in whose image we are made, and who takes on our image to walks with us into promise.

As we navigate this sacred journey from All Saints through Advent to the miraculous possibility of Christmas, may we embrace the love of God that comes to us and helps us begin again. And may we find grace and the unshakeable hope to persevere, making all things new.

With you,

The Rev. R. Scott Painter, Rector Email: ScottP@stmaa.org

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		

1704 NE 43RD AVENUE / PORTLAND, OR 97213-1402 / PHONE 503/284-7141 OFFICE@STMAA.ORG WWW.STMAA.ORG

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED . . .

for healing and comfort for
 Jon Acord, Mark Allen, Carol
 Beeston, Anna Hawley, Barack
 Holt Newton, Mark Jones,
 Diane Kimmel, Caroline Litzenberger, David Pace, Bob &
 Esther Pyle, Melissa Reeves,



Thea Sanchez and Marlana Stoddard Hayes;

 for the healing of five teenagers—Velimar, Junior, Irvin, Marlene and Brian—who are connected with the 1:00 pm service and who are recovering from a terrible auto accident;

The following prayers appeared in eblasts since June 22, when the previous Messenger was published; however, they are repeated here in case they were missed:

- + in thanksgiving for the baptism on September 24 of **Esther Kathryn Heater-Sackett**, and for her parents, grandparents and other family members;
- in thanksgiving for the marriage on July 3 of Hannah Brewer and Jakob Wiley;
- for the repose of the souls of Richard Haines
 Portwood, father of Nina Shields, who died on
 October 26; Nell Rehm, mother of Terrie Ingram and Sue Quanbeck, who died on October 19;
 Patrick Page, father of Nick Page, who died on
 August 20; Tom Prewitt, father of Stephanie
 English, who died on July 1; Mary Elizabeth
 Knight, sister of Lou Carman, who died on
 August 2; Jo Pelkki, aunt of Josh English, who died in early August; Mary Elizabeth Domejka, sister of the Rev. Dennis Parker, who died on July 31; and Diana Karabut, who died on June 18.

JR. WARDEN REPORT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WESTERN OREGON HOUSING CRISIS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Established over a year ago by Bishop Akiyama, our working group has made strides in achieving our original charge. Among our work to date has been providing a contextual, historical and justice-oriented framework for addressing the housing crisis in our diocese and beyond. We have sought to connect our work so that our capacity to live into Jesus' commandments will be strengthened and renewed. We offer you this prayer so that you might be reminded of our commitments to one another:

Dear God, in whom we find our home, you are our shelter and our strength. For those who have no earthly shelter, we pray for nothing less than safe spaces to call home. For those who have earthly shelter, we pray for the grace to see Christ

SENIOR WARDEN & VESTRY NEWS

Parish vestries are important to the organization and governance of the Episcopal Church. Both the national Church and our local Diocese outline the role of a Vestry, to "be agents and legal representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy."



Simply stated, the Vestry, in partnership with the Rector, keeps the building standing and cares for the people of the parish. This includes attending to the spiritual well-being of its members, maintaining the building, supporting ministries within the parish and community outreach.

At any given Vestry meeting, members might approve expenditures for facility maintenance or ministry support, report on the work of various ministries and programs, approve the Treasurer's monthly report and approve the previous month's meeting minutes. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and are open to all parishioners.

Previous and current Vestry members worked particularly hard for the past two years to call a new rector and maintain stability in our parish. Vestry members also served on the Profile, Search and Transition Committees. I am grateful for their dedication, commitment and hours of extra work.

Every year at the Annual Meeting of our parish, new people are elected to serve a three-year term as vestry members. Ideally, the members of the Vestry represent the diversity of the parish so that all voices might be heard.

I ask that you prayerfully discern where you might be called to serve at St. Michael & All Angels. Applications for Vestry nominations will be available soon in the Gallery and church office.

— Helen Crandell, Senior Warden of the Vestry

in every person. Forgive us; we live in a land of abundance, yet basic needs are out of reach for many. Cultivate in us defiant hope that, even in this time and in this place, your power working in us can do more than we can ask or imagine. We ask in the name of Jesus, the Son of Man, who had no place to lay his head. Amen.

For additional information, please read our latest report, available through the Annual Meeting page on the diocesan website: <u>https://ecwo.org/annual-meeting/.</u> Look on the lower part of that page under Diocesan Working Groups and Ministries Annual Reports/Housing Crisis.

— Carl Braginsky, member of the Housing Crisis Working Group

MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATE



The choir program has already had a busy start to the season with TWO Evensongs (for St. Michael's Day and All Souls), an "off-campus" choir retreat, and participation in Scott's Celebration of New and Mutual Ministry. We've also had two special non-liturgical music events at St. Michael's with an Ensemble Boulanger concert highlighting 19th- and 20thcentury women composers on September 24, and a concert of music by Couperin from two guest musicians from the East Coast on October 29.

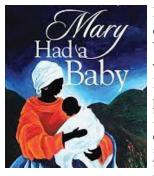
The next big event is our annual Advent Service of Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 3, at 7:00 pm. As sung two years ago, we will again structure the service around the seven "O" Antiphons, rather than the typical nine lessons. Dating back to the 6th century, these "O" Antiphons expand on the most famous paraphrase, the hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel*, focusing on the Hebrew scriptures associated with the coming of Christ.



SAINT BRIGID'S GUILD

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. —James 5:14-15

St. Brigid's Guild is a prayer group which meets once a month to pray for each other, our community and our St. Michael's parish. We also strive to keep alive the ember of Celtic Christianity. On the second Sunday of each month, In our version of this service, we'll sing Advent hymns, offer some biblical and contemporary reflections, and present anthems and motets selected for each themed antiphon. Musical highlights from the St. Michael's Singers and Choristers will include works by Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987), Amy Beach (1867-1944), Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949), Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625), and Peter Hallock (1924-2014). Please join us for this candlelit evening service to celebrate the start of Advent.



Lots more fantastic music is to come for Christmas Eve as well! We have a newly acquired, awardwinning, choral composition by Duncan Tuomi, son of longtime parishioner and choir member Leslie Tuomi; Morten Lauridsen's exquisite *O magnum mysterium*; joyful carols by Alice Parker/ Robert Shaw and the late Stephen

Cleobury; and William Dawson's African American spiritual *Mary had a Baby* (all at the 10:30 pm late service). At the 6:00 pm service, the Saints & Singers Choir will offer an energetic Christmas anthem in Spanish. And don't miss the Choristers' time to shine at the Nativity Play at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

In the meantime, please enjoy offertory anthems, all by women composers, throughout the month of November, a refreshingly unintentional consequence of expanding our choral library over the past several years!

Save the dates for important music program events coming up in 2024 (times tentative):

- Sunday, February 4, at 5:00 pm Choral Evensong for Candlemas
- Thursday, May 9, at 7:00 pm Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Ascension
- Friday, May 31, & Saturday, June 1, at 7:00 Broadway Night fundraiser
- Hannah Brewer, Music Director & Organist

during and after services, we are available to pray with parishioners for healing of body, mind or spirit, for themselves or others. However, if you need prayer on any Sunday, please stop any one of us and we will pray with you. Prayer concerns are kept in strictest confidence. We welcome new members, so if you are interested in joining us, please contact the church office.

Presently, the members of the St. Brigid's Guild include Amparo Abila, Sherri Afryl, Richard and Peggy Hartman, Ken Robertson, Thea Sanchez and Margaret Thiele.

— Richard Hartman

ST. MICHAEL'S SOLAR UPDATE 2023

On October 16, 2020, St. Michael's began generating its own electrical power from the sun with our 23kw-hour, 72-panel system. Our estimated energy savings at the time of installation was approximately 40%. So, in this report to the people of St. Michael & All Angels, I went back through the electrical bills from 2017 to the present and have collected data from three years prior to the Solar PV System and three years after the installation. Here is what I found out.



Our average monthly electrical bill for 2017 was \$625.66, 2018 was \$534.32 and 2019 was \$463.00. These were the three-year averages prior to solar. Beginning in the first three years after the solar installation, our average monthly

electrical bill for 2021 (COVID year) was \$244.14, 2022 was \$385.20, and 2023 was \$329.27. Adding these average monthly bills together for the three years prior to our solar array and then dividing that number by three, we get a three-year monthly average of \$540.99. Then, adding the average monthly bills together for the three years following the addition of our Solar PV System, we had a three-year monthly average of \$357.24. This gave us a net electrical savings of roughly 34%.

This gives us a good idea of how much we are saving on our annual electrical costs. We are saving about a third of the total cost for electricity annually. That is a very good savings, even though it hasn't met the approximate savings that was estimated we would save, which was 40%.

WOOD-FLOOR CLEANING & WAXING



I think we all noticed a great improvement in the appearance and feel of the Parish and Nativity Hall floors late last summer. At the time, however, we did not properly acknowledge the work of St. Michael's member Olegario Cortés who, along with his wife Socorro Rivera and daughter Elizabeth Cortés (who handles the business end), comprise our janitorial service. Olegario has owned his own janitorial business since 2000 and has handled all of our cleaning needs at St. Michael's for around 15 years. However, there are factors that have hindered our electrical energy production. In 2022, for about half the year, in the late spring through the three warmest summer months, we were



running on half our system only. Apparently, sometime in March, the switch on one of two diverters was turned off. This situation wasn't recognized until late July, and the diverter was then turned back on. So we were only producing at 50% capacity. And even with that situation, we saved 34% of electrical costs over the three-year period. Had we not had the mishap, we would have certainly had a higher percentage of savings. In addition, one of our invertors failed for a short time because of a failed integrated circuit inside. It was repaired under warranty. We therefore relied on only a 32-panel system for about two weeks, again resulting in some lost electrical gains.

Looking at the numbers, we spent approximately \$19,476 for electricity in the three years prior to installing our solar array. In the three years following the installation of the solar array, we spent \$11,503, a total electrical savings of \$7,973. Our outof-pocket cost for the solar array was about \$10,000, so we are about \$2,000 away from paying for the system. The original estimation was that the system would pay for itself in four years. This will be easily reached sometime in the first half of 2024. After that, St. Michael's is saving money that can be used for other programs and/or offsetting other costs in the budget.

Since Oct 16, 2020, we have produced 64.9MWh of green electrical energy, saved 73,813 pounds of CO2 emissions and planted the equivalent of 558 trees. Our system is doing a lot to save our planet as well as save us money.

— Dan Bagwell, Solar Coordinator

At the end of August, on a weekend chosen because our Sunday services were being held in Wilshire Park and not in our church building, Olegario and two trusted helpers spent approximately 40 hours refinishing the wood floors in the Parish and Nativity Halls. He charged us only for the materials used and not for his and his helpers' labor, saving St. Michael's roughly \$2,000. Olegario and Socorro also went above and beyond for the Celebration of New & Mutual Ministry, cleaning the carpets on the main and lower-level floors for the occasion for no extra charge.

Olegario and Socorro do the janitorial service for both residential and commercial buildings and have cleaned carpets for several St. Michael's parishioners. If you wish to contact him, please reach out to pdxjanitorialservices@gmail.com.

OUTREACH & JUSTICE COUNCIL



It's been a busy summer and fall for O & J. The Council designed and funded a new Pride banner which was flown at the Pride Parade in July along with the Rainbow Initiative banner, showing our support for all folks, including immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

Our funding efforts have leaned heavily toward helping unhoused neighbors, close to us and farther away. Street Medicine, We Shine, Blanchet House, NW Pilot Project and Cultivate Initiatives all are efforts to help those who have less than we do. Some of our funds go overseas, and we pray for the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, as well as the Princess Basma Center in Jerusalem, a center which helps handicapped children.

NEWS FROM THE MEALS MINISTRY



This is a story-picture that shows some of our neighbors who arrive early before we begin serving at Burrito Love. This photo doesn't show Thrina, the early-shift kitchen prep partner; or Patti Evans, baker of the wonderful chocolate-chunky cookies; or Sheri and John, the welcoming baristas offering customordered drinks; or Joan and Jan, gracious and welcoming hosts.

That is a picture of the community (taken with permission), and it tells more than one story. In the picture are friends with similar stories of life with ups and downs – the wheelchair tells a story, someone's shyness tells a story, a few cracking jokes after being asked to have their picture taken. It's about listening to a neighbor who lost his best furry friend; to a guest who was relieved to be offered more than just one sack lunch as he didn't know where his next meal is coming This year, our Advent Tree will have tags for four worthy organizations. We will have tags asking for gift cards for asylum-seekers through IMIrJ. Other tags will have items for the Community Transitional School, which tracks children who are on the move—couch-surfing, sleeping in cars, in short-stay motels, or with various relatives, often in other parts of the city—and sends buses for them so they will have an unbroken school-year experience.

A third set of tags is for Virginia Garcia Memorial Center Clinic in Hillsboro. They furnish comprehensive primary health, dental and eye care to those without insurance, especially migrants, farmworkers and Hispanic families. Our fourth organization is Blanchet House, which feeds and cares for the homeless with compassion and allows them their dignity and personhood.

The Advent Tree will be in the Gallery with tags by Advent Sunday, November 26, and will remain up through December. These are not Christmas gifts, so they should be unwrapped. They will be delivered in early January. Gifts that you bring will help folks in the long, cold winter ahead. We hope you'll find a tag or two!

— Lynn Baker and Susan Barnett, co-conveners for the Outreach & Justice Ministries Council

from; to the joy of one in being given additional sacks he requested for friends who physically cannot attend; a safe rest for some who can sit for a while. Some are here for the first time through 'word of mouth,' and others are regulars.

Over the summer, there was an increase in guests. To meet that need, the Burrito Love team increased the number of burrito sacks from 76 to 80 and planned for up to 20 PB&J and tunafish sandwiches for backup. Both the Burrito Love and It's in the Bag teams strive to be a welcoming, inclusive presence at all times.

Those teams wish to ask all to consider helping with <u>It's In</u>. <u>The Bag</u> every Thursday and <u>Burrito Love</u> every last Saturday of the month. Both have signup times going into 2024. Financial contributions to support the community meals' mission may be made through the donation tab on the home page of our website, stmaa.org. In addition, now is an excellent time to donate any usable and clean adult-size winter clothing, including sweaters, coats, socks, gloves, hats, boots and scarves.

— Hjalmer Lofstrom



A MESSAGE ABOUT NET CARBON NEUTRALITY



Net carbon neutrality is something everyone seems to be talking about these days, especially since the emphasis on aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030. Our own Diocese has adopted this as a goal. But does everyone know what it actually means?

Carbon neutrality refers to eliminating carbon emissions from buildings, vehicles and other sources so that no carbon (carbon dioxide, methane) is added to the atmosphere. Energy generated through the use of fossil fuels, such as for space and water heating, cooking and electricity in our homes, is an important source of carbon emissions. Achieving carbon neutrality will require substantial reductions in the use of carbon-based energy.

One way to begin this process is with an energy audit of your home. This may be done by a licensed professional or, in some cases, by a utility company. A list of licensed inspectors is available through the Oregon Department of Energy or on the Creation Care Working Group's page on the Diocesan website, ecwo.org.

In the meantime, these are some of the easiest and least expensive steps that can be taken:

- Close up drafts and leaks in windows, doors, around baseboards, electrical outlets, switches, and lighting or plumbing fixtures. Seal any cracks or holes with caulk and/or weather stripping.
- Check insulation levels. The level of insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an old home.
- Have your heating and cooling equipment inspected annually. Check filters if you have a forced-air furnace and replace them as needed.
- Consider replacing inefficient light bulbs with LEDs.
- A more expensive, but ultimately cost-saving (and healthier) solution, is to replace gas appliances with energy-efficient electric ones.

These are just a few of the Energy Department's suggestions. Go to the address below for more information:

— Cheryl Braginsky

https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-homeenergy-assessments

ADVOCACY ACTION/ CREATION CARE TEAM

This year, the Advocacy Action committee teamed up with the Diocesan Creation Care Team and has been urging involvement in environmental issues as well as social-justice issues. Already this year, we have addressed issues as diverse as plastics pollution, fossil-fuel divestment, protecting Northwest orcas and encouraging development of electric vehicles, while also advocating for including Black farmers in the Farm Bill, defending the rights of Palestinian children and families and protecting Oregon's family farms.



At our Earth Day forum, team members shared information on train transportation of dangerous chemicals, electric vehicles, energy-efficient appliances, endangered species, pollinator-friendly plantings and environmentally safe products. Our next action will support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Stop by our table on November 12 to sign

letters to U.S. Representatives Blumenauer and Bonamici asking them to sign this important legislation to provide equal access to voting for all Americans.

And remember, we always have room for more volunteers! This fall, we are glad to welcome new members Pamela Clark, Rob Meadows and Brooke Walter. If you would like to check out our group, co-chairs Cheryl Braginsky (cherylsky5@gmail.com) or Marili Reilly (cascademarili@gmail. com) would be happy to talk with you.

— Marili Reilly

YOUTH NEWS

On October 12-13, 17 youth went to the corn maze at Fazio Farms and slept over at St. Michael's. They came from St. Paul's–Salem, St. Luke's–Gresham, Ascension in Southwest Portland, and St. Michael & All Angels. In the morning, we prepared 50 hygiene care kits for Blanchet House and heard presentations about the outreach ministries at St. Michael's. Finally, we did a neighborhood cleanup in Hollywood and brought back more than ten buckets and bags of garbage. Be sure to check out the photos in the Gallery of this event!

Upcoming dates to remember include November 17, the deadline to apply to be a youth presence at the Episocpal General Convention next June in Louisville, KY. Check your email or past eblasts for more information about this exciting opportunity. The next youth-group gatherings at St. Michael's are November 19 and December 3, and the Christmas party will happen on December 17.

- Ruby Welch, Youth Group leadership

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Children & Family Ministries is getting ready for one of the most joyful times of the year! We hope your family will take part in the life and worship of St. Michael's as we prepare for the arrival of the Christ child into the world on Christmas. Here are some upcoming dates and special events to mark on your calendar.

NOVEMBER 12:



The Nativity Play tryouts for children with speaking parts. Traditionally, 3rd -through 5th -grade students take the lead in the Christmas Eve Nativity Play, presented at 4:00 pm on December 24th. The children will perform the story of the Nativity, and all the children in the play will sing an anthem during this

beloved Family Service. There are parts available in the play for angels, shepherds, animals in the stable, kings, innkeepers, narrators and even Caesar Augustus! Play rehearsals in December will be on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am.

Please hold the mornings of Saturday, December 16, and Saturday, December 23, for Nativity Play rehearsals. Questions? Don't hesitate to contact Leslie Sackett, <u>leslies@</u> stmaa.org

NOVEMBER 26:

Advent Fair for all ages in the Nativity Hall during the 10 o'clock hour. Come make seasonal crafts and an advent wreath to grace your table at home. We ask everyone to bring cuttings and greens from their yard to help create beautiful



one-of-a-kind wreaths to enjoy during the Advent Season.

DECEMBER 2 (SATURDAY):

Something brand-new: Christmas Crafts for Kids and

Families on Saturday morning from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Come enjoy a relaxed morning to complete the handmade Christmas cards or other seasonal crafts you've always wanted to make. We'll have lots of stamping and craft supplies, plus cider, donuts and great Christmas music to listen to while you work. We hope you'll stop by and make something special for someone you love!

EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Thank you to the Misa folks who set up the *Altar de los Muertos* for Sundays, October 29 and November 5, and those of you who brought in your photos to put on the Altar. Thank you, also, to members of the Immigrant Welcoming Congregation (IWC) who organized crafts and treats for after the 11:00 am service on the Feast of All Saints Sunday, November 5. Here are a few photos from that day:





ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1704 NE 43rd Avenue Portland, OR 97213-1402 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm on Mondays 503/284-7141 or office@stmaa.org.

The Messenger

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 12	Stewardship Ingathering
Nov. 19	Diocesan Annual Meeting/ Convention forum with delegates
Nov. 26	Advent Fair
Dec. 2	Christmas crafts for kids & families
Dec. 3	Advent Service of Lessons & Carols
Dec. 10	St. Michael's Artisan Fair
	Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration
Dec. 17	Youth group Christmas party
	Las Posadas
Dec. 21	Longest Night service
DEC. 24	Advent 4/Christmas Eve – services at 10:00 am; 1:00 pm Misa; 4:00, 6:00 & 10:30 pm
DEC. 25	Christmas Day service at 10:00 am
Dec. 31	Service at 10:00 am

LUNCH BUNCH GATHERING

You're invited! The next Lunch Bunch gathering will be at Siri Thai Restaurant, located at 5234 SE Powell Blvd., on Tuesday, November 21, at 11:30 am. All are welcome, but please RSVP to Paula Raines, at psrmelody@comcast.net.

ST. MICHAEL'S ARTISAN FAIR

For 2023, St. Michael's will be hosting a Mini Gift Market on Sunday, December 10, with gifts and goodies made by artists and creatives from all four of our St. Michael's services and available to purchase. Artists and crafters are invited to sign up for a table or two to offer their creations to our parishioners and visitors. We are not charging artists any fees for reserving tables but will ask for a free-will donation to the church of a portion of their sales.

Everyone is invited to come after the 9:00 or 11:00 services, or before the Misa, to shop for gifts and baked goods to support our local artists and St. Michaell's. Please contact Sheri O'Brien or Sundance Henry for more information.

— Sheri O'Brien

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