



**ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Worshiping & serving since 1807

A Great Cloud of Witnesses: Annual Report of the Ministries of St. Michael's for 2019

**2020 Parish Annual Meeting
January 26, 2020**



OUR CORE VALUES

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” — John 6:35

Following Jesus Christ

We seek to live the way of Jesus in love, humility, and service to others.

Spiritual Growth

We invite others to join us on our journey as we grow in wisdom about God, ourselves, and the world.

Diversity

We celebrate the fullness of humanity’s differences, building a community where everyone belongs.

Community

We cultivate relationships of love and care, within our parish family and beyond.

Joy

We lift up our hearts with love and laughter as we delight in the Spirit’s presence among us.

Stewardship

We honor the legacy of our church’s first two centuries and strive to extend God’s work in this place for generations to come.

WELCOME FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Katharine Flexer



It is already a cliché that we hope 2020 will be the year of clearer vision. We do find it hard sometimes to focus. But in 2019 we began to do just that!

We outlined our six Core Values and began work on living them out, aiming at goals the vestry set at our February retreat. We selected an architect and began work on our buildings' master plan. We engaged parishioners in a survey about service and outreach and our ministries in the world. We hired a communications coordinator to create a new website and improve our messaging and welcome. We hired a new associate rector to shape and mold our formation offerings. We engaged a seminarian resident to lead us in new ways of inviting, welcoming, and connecting people. We welcomed a new part-time deacon to build up our healing ministries. All of it laying ground for living more deeply into our faith, following Jesus Christ in this new decade of our life together. And all while continuing to serve and care for our neighbors, near and far.

As we begin our new year, we're ready for the path before us. We see the vision and we're moving toward it. May we run without stumbling to attain it together!

CLERGY

Associate Rector: the Rev. Julie Hoplamazian

It was my honor and joy to join the ministry staff at St. Michael's on Sept. 1. My responsibilities over the last four months have been to oversee our Sunday Forums, Wednesday evening Bible Study, Advent Scripture Meditation, Prayer Chain and Grief Group; to coordinate with the Young Adults group, assist with pastoral care, join in our Racial Justice ministry, and regularly preach and lead worship. I also served as a guest instructor for COHI and EfM.

I created a new contemplative offering in Advent, employing the multifaceted meaning of "sanctuary" — offering a candlelit holy space as respite from the busy, stressful holiday season, with prayer stations offering self-guided scripture meditations.

I gathered a working group to take the first steps of making St. Michael's an anti-racist organization. We attended a training held at Riverside Church in November, and some of those folks are now working with the rector and me to seek how St. Michael's can address the issue of slavery in our past.

As a newcomer with fresh eyes, I'm working closely with Mother Kate to examine our parish life and to consider new ways of being a Christian community and growing this body of Christ.

Assistant Priest: the Rev. David Rider

I serve St. Michael's as a part-time priest, 10 hours per week. My 2019 highlights included sharing liturgical duties; facilitating the February men's retreat; hosting four parish visits to Port Newark; teaching a Sunday class on Jesus in the New Testament; and leading a monthly series on preparing for retirement. Each of these activities gave me a satisfying connection with parishioners while further discerning God's hand at work in church and society.

In addition, I've enjoyed photographing St. Michael's in action to celebrate our common life and share our story with potential members via our website. Storytelling goes to the heart of ministry, and visual storytelling adds a creative dimension.

Deacon: the Rev. Deacon Richard Limato

I am a diocesan Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEV) trainer, training and certifying members of the parish who are interested in this ministry at our services or in bringing Holy Communion and making a pastoral care visit to parishioners not able to attend church. I coordinate our monthly LEV visits.

An important part of my ministry continues to be as a Saturday Kitchen volunteer and a clergy pastoral presence to our guests. As a member of our parish pastoral care team, I also offer pastoral care to parishioners and represent St. Michael's at home and hospital visits. My ministry also includes preparing families for baptism, and youth for confirmation.

Prayer to Go, a street ministry offering prayer and a healing presence on the streets of Manhattan, is another extension of my ministry. As the liturgical deacon at the 10 a.m. Eucharist, I assist in heralding the Gospel, preaching and serving as a minister of the chalice. Beyond St. Michael's, I serve as a chaplain at White Plains Hospital.

Deacon: the Rev. Deacon Elena L. Barnum

One year ago, as a retired deacon from Connecticut newly returned to New York City, I joined St. Michael's as a parishioner. One month later, Bishop Dietsche decided to make me canonically resident in this diocese and assigned me as a part-time deacon at St. Michael's. I was and still am astonished to be so blessed to serve in this wonderful parish! The primary focus of my diaconal ministry is to help oversee and support our Healing Ministry by assisting clergy and lay healing-

prayer ministers at all services, assisting and coordinating healing services throughout the liturgical year, serving liturgically as deacon at our weekly Sunday Intersection service, and serving as needed for Sunday morning services and Feast Days.

In addition, I participate in staff planning, offer classes and Quiet Days in spiritual discernment, and am available to offer pastoral healing support. I also help oversee Safe Church training, implementation and integration throughout all parish ministries.

Wisdom Year Resident: the Rev. Deacon Maryann D. Younger

The Wisdom Year Residency is a General Theological Seminary program in which senior seminarians serve as paid part-time employees during their last full year of seminary. As well as participating liturgically in all services and in the life of the church, I focus on developing new ways to invite, welcome and connect us with one another and with members of our community. In December, I was ordained as a deacon. After graduating in May with a master of divinity degree and completing my residency in mid-June, I'll return home to the Diocese of Delaware. I'm deeply grateful for the abundant support and formation that the St. Michael's community has given me.

THE CAMPUS

Third Century Committee

Our Third Century Committee is working with Richard McElhiney Architects to prepare a master plan for our sanctuary, Parish House and rectory. This process will help implement our Core Value on Stewardship: "... to extend God's work in this place for generations to come."

Our long-held dreams include: Accessibility for the mobility-challenged, including an elevator. Greater connection between buildings, with an emphasis on circulation and security. Improvements to the Recital Hall and restrooms. The greening of our buildings.

The implementation of the master plan will be ambitious, so we will need meticulous planning. And we'll be very thoughtful about what to do and how to finance it. We plan to think big, but think smart. Fortunately, engineering studies show that our underlying infrastructure is sound.

The McElhiney firm was selected during a rigorous competition. We've completed phase 1 of 3 in the master planning process and hope to have the final plan by this summer. With God's grace, we may see implementation begin in 2021. Contact: John Avery, javery222@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE AND HEALING

Healing Prayer Team

During Lent and Advent the clergy offered Healing Eucharist services for those who experienced significant loss or struggles. These liturgies created a space for healing and contemplation for more

than 40 people. In August, we led healing services at the 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. services, and about half the congregation came forward to receive Laying on of Hands.

Healing ministry continued during all Sunday services in the Chapel of the Angels and at the St. Jude's Altar. We also offered prayers to the wider community on Ash Wednesday in the church and at the 96th Street subway station. If you're interested in participating in this ministry, please contact one of the clergy.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Each month, following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, our Eucharistic visitors take the consecrated Host to members of the parish who are unable to be present at worship because of illness or infirmity. This year, 40 visits were made to homes, hospitals and nursing facilities. If you're interested in participating in this ministry, please contact one of the clergy.

Prayer Chain Ministry

Since 2010 our Prayer Chain Ministry has offered daily intercessory prayers to God on behalf of the parish and the community, either on a short- or long-term basis. Last year we began to offer focused, intentional prayers at times of crisis, illness, and other emergencies.

Parishioners can request prayers for themselves, or for those they love and care for. Requests can include those who are sick or unemployed or awaiting the birth of a child; those in prison, those who have died and those who mourn. Prayers of celebration and thanksgiving are also offered daily for the joyous events we mark throughout our lives, like a new job or an upcoming wedding. Likewise we remember concerns of the wider world.

The group doesn't physically gather to pray, but our pray-ers do so whenever and in whatever form their prayers take in personal devotions. As always, prayers remain confidential among the group. Contact: Arlene Bullard, aedithb@aol.com

ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sunday Forums began the year with a variety of pastoral care topics. Beginning in Lent, the forums shifted to a particular focus on the Way of Love, a seven-step "rule of life" brought forth by the national church. Following this, a series of "Episcopal 101" forums taught the basics of the Anglican tradition. This fall began with a focus on our children's ministries and supporting parents in living out their faith at home. We then moved into six weeks on the new St. Michael's Core Values, and the ways these values of Following Jesus Christ, Spiritual Growth, Community, Diversity, Joy and Stewardship extend beyond St. Michael's and into our daily lives. We then moved into two weeks of stewardship conversations and celebration, in conjunction with Edgar Dawson's 100th birthday.

Forum times in December were dedicated to Advent-related themes: making Advent wreaths, prayer in Advent, and the infancy narratives. The third Sunday of Advent replaced the forum with the annual Christmas brunch, following the pageant. St. Michael's also celebrated the inaugural season of the Theatre Troupe, which presented twice at the forum time, in spring and fall.

Engaging Scripture began in the season of Epiphany with the Good Book Club's study on Romans. From Lent through Pentecost, a series focused on Richard Rohr's "Job and Mystery of Suffering." The fall program year began with a six-week series on "the outsider," using "The Faith of the Outsider," by Frank Spina. Then came a six-week series on Doubt in scripture. A new offering this year was the "Advent Scripture Meditation." Employing the multifaceted meaning of "sanctuary" and the need for more quiet, reflective time during the holiday season, we set up four stations around the church, each containing a self-guided scripture meditation. In the respite of a candlelit holy space, attendees could meditate silently on Holy Scripture, lighting candles as they concluded each station and praying with medieval chant playing softly in the background.

Education for Ministry (EfM), a four-year program of theological learning, prepares church members for lay ministry. In June 2019 our EfM group finished a two-year study of the Bible; then in September we launched a deep dive into church history. The main text for Year Three is "Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years," by Oxford don Diarmaid MacCulloch, not just about those who made the faith great and powerful, but also about dissidents and heretics whose ideas persist to this day. We're also learning the parallel history of Eastern Christianity, and got a living sample in a lecture-demonstration by Mother Julie, raised in the Armenian church. Meanwhile, with mentor Arlene Bullard, we're wrestling with this year's personal growth theme: Living as Spiritually Mature Christians. Contact: Arlene Bullard, aedithb@aol.com

Community of Hope International — Lay Pastoral Care Program (COHI) is rooted in Benedictine Spirituality and based on the classic Clinical Pastoral Education model used in many hospitals to train chaplains and clergy. Pastoral care is how clergy and lay people minister to others by being present in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs.

In Circle of Care, lay chaplains trained through COHI gather monthly and are inspired to work toward balance and harmony in prayer, worship, silence, holy reading, and serving others while building a community centered on spiritual encouragement, grace, comfort and hope. Contact: Deacon Richard P. Limato, rplimato@saintmichaelschurch.org

Discernment Committees

Diocesan guidelines require each parish to form a committee to meet with those who aspire to ordained ministry or lay chaplaincy. At St. Michael's our discernment committees are also available

to work with anyone seeking clarity on a major life decision, following the Listening Hearts program. For more information on the committees, or to take part, contact Mother Kate.

Young Adults of St. Michael's — 20s/30s Group

The Young Adults offer parishioners and visitors in their 20s and 30s a group of peers in faith and fellowship as we navigate the world of early adulthood. In 2019, our potlucks (with a simple Complaine service) and summer gathering were popular events, the former hosted twice by Sarah Stefanski and the latter organized by Anne Pearce as a sunset seafood bake. In April, Taylor Johnson led us in making hot cross buns for Maundy Thursday, and in May, a group of us hiked in Hudson Highlands State Park. In December, we again lit an Advent candle. With the strong influx of young adults at St. Michael's recently, we're excited to put together a great line-up of events for 2020! Contacts: Katherine Tucker, ktucker9589@gmail.com or Yang Li, yang.william.li@gmail.com.

Social Justice Ministry

The mission of the Social Justice Committee is to celebrate the fullness of humanity's differences, building a community where everyone belongs, and to cultivate relationships of love and care within our parish family and beyond.

We raised \$2,000 for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's hospital in Gaza through Angels of Ahli. The Al Ahli Hospital takes in all those who need medical care. Our neighbors on the Upper West Side joined us in conversation about social justice issues through our Summer Film series. In 2019, we screened 10 films: "BlackKKKlansman," "30 Shots of Rum," "Boy Erased," "First Reformed," "The Hate U Give," "The Wife," "Green Book," "Can You Ever Forgive Me?," "Stan and Ollie," and "Shoplifters." After each film, parishioners facilitated discussions.

Volunteers from the Social Justice group continued to work at the Harlem Community Justice Center to support the re-entry of incarcerated people. In the fall, the Social Justice group and the Racial Justice Dialogue group viewed "When They See Us," a docudrama on the Central Park Five. Representatives from the Circles of Support, for the formerly incarcerated, told about their experiences with the legal system. Contacts: John Uss, uss.john612@gmail.com, Anne Stribling, annestr615@aol.com and Juliette Leak, jeleak@gmail.com.

The Men of St. Mike's meet occasionally for fellowship and faith exploration. We had a fine retreat in Mendham, N. J., last year and look forward to returning to the same venue this Presidents' Weekend, with David Rider to lead us again. We held a fall dinner, with excellent food donated by Regional restaurant. As we did last year, we'll lead a spring Cleanup Day. Contacts: Yang Li yang.william.li@gmail.com or Rick Hamlin, frederickwrighthamlin@gmail.com

Episcopal Church Women, formerly the Women's Auxiliary, is the oldest lay organization in continued existence at St. Michael's. Its membership is all women of the parish. Activities include the United Thank Offering Ingathering parish collection, which supports the Episcopal Church worldwide mission, and the Christmas Bake Sale and Mini-bazaar. Proceeds from the 2019 holiday event were once again distributed to our Haiti Project, in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of New York and Haiti, and to St. Ann's Episcopal Church in the Bronx, for its Children and Youth ministries. Contacts: Ginger Lief, vlief4@verizon.net or Margaret Cotterell, 973-270-6361

Women of St. Michael's

The Women of St. Michael's Retreat Weekend took place at the St. Marguerite's Retreat House May 3-5, in Mendham, N.J. Thirty women attended. Coordinators were Anne Stribling and Susan Wade. The Rev. Posey Krakowsky led our retreat. This year's retreat is scheduled for May 1-3. We will once again gather at St. Marguerite's. We're delighted that Mother Julie will lead our retreat. Contacts: Anne Stribling, annestr615@aol.com and Susan Wade susanwade@paulhastings.com

Moms of St. Michaels

The Moms of St. Michael's provides an opportunity for all mothers at St. Michael's simply to gather around a meal and get to know one another better. To make it as effortless as possible for moms to attend, each participant is asked to contribute for dinner and, if possible, bring a beverage or a dessert. We believe that such a relaxing, easy outlet for mothers of all ages not only provides support but also helps lay a foundation for a stronger St. Michael's community. Contact: Susan Wade, susanwade@paulhastings.com

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Safe Church

St. Michael's continues to uphold its Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth affirmed by the Vestry in 2018. Last year, 39 people completed or renewed the Safe Church training required by the Diocese of New York. Most of the training took place online. Eleven completed the training in person at St. Michael's on Saturday, Oct. 26, led by our own Deacon Elena, a Safe Church Trainer with the Diocese of New York. Two more completed the in-person training at the cathedral.

Employees, people volunteering with minors, vestry members, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, COHI graduates and everyone volunteering on a regular basis must renew their training every five years. Also, Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, Homework Help volunteers and employees must undergo a background check every five years.

St. Michael's Christmas Pageant

"Angels we have heard on high" — and seen in our own great church. More than 50 children and youth, ages 2 to 17, participated in the 2019 Christmas Pageant. More than 20 adults assisted backstage. The pageant is the St. Michael's event that garners the largest participation of young people. This was the fifth year in which the pageant took place at the 10 a.m. service, once again with Deborah Houston's stately Renaissance costumes. New elements included a surprise pizza delivery by the Angel to the Shepherds, and seven magnificent banners depicting the Angels of the Heavenly Host. The children painted the banner angels, and parishioner Margaret Jolly sewed them onto silk. The prayers, written and led by the Middle School Group, were poignant for their attention to challenges facing our nation and our world.

The Nursery

St. Michael's nursery has undergone significant changes in 2019. Our two long-time child-care workers, Rosie Perez and Carmen Daniell, both retired. Abby Powell joined our staff in January. She attended the fall Sunday school orientation along with our Godly Play teachers and began thinking about how to incorporate Godly Play into our nursery. Kathryn Santos joined us in November. The nursery was painted and renovated in the summer and now has a toilet and sink. The Russian Children's Studio, which rents several rooms in our Parish House for their weekday programs, paid for the renovation. They use the space during the week and prepare it for us for Sundays.

Godly Play Sunday School

In September, our pre-K through 5th grade classes entered their third full year of practicing Godly Play following the 10 a.m. service on Sundays during the school year. Each class has at least two volunteer teachers who have participated in Godly Play Foundation training in 2017 or 2018 (training was not offered in New York City in 2019). All our teachers from 2018-19 chose to continue in 2019-20. Children and teachers have deepened their awareness of God's presence in and through the stories of our faith, the circle of the church year, in worship and — especially — in every day of their life.

In Godly Play, the same stories are told every year using long-lasting story-telling materials. A child who has experienced each core story three times is ready for enrichment stories. During the 2020/2021 school year, the 3rd-to-5th-grade classes will incorporate those additional stories.

Seven children are active in the 2019-20 pre-K/K class, seven in the 1st-2nd grade class, and nine in the 3rd-to-5th-grade class. On average, about four children attend each class on any given Sunday.

Word Made Young

Every Sunday, children ages 4 to 8 have the opportunity to experience the Liturgy of the Word during the 10 a.m. service in a way and a space specially designed for their developmental stage.

Word Made Young meets in the Yellow Room, set up for Godly Play. Word Made Young follows the Godly Play format through the Passing of the Peace, when children return to the church to celebrate Holy Communion with the whole church family.

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries Andrea Dedmon leads Word Made Young. Witnessing the success of the Godly Play method last year, she committed to offering Godly Play stories in Word Made Young. The Godly Play stories told in Sunday school follow the basic schedule of Old Testament Stories in the fall, Parables after Epiphany, Faces of Easter during Lent and Liturgical lessons during Easter. In Word Made Young, the Godly Play stories reflect the lectionary. Thirteen children are currently active in Word Made Young, with an average of seven attending on Sundays during the school year. In the summer, the average is three.

Youth Groups

The Middle School Group and the High School Group meet every Sunday of the school year. The focus in both groups is on building a community in which youth can be themselves, grow in faith, have fun, and serve others. One way the combined groups served the wider community in 2019 was to make sandwich lunches and deliver them to homeless people in Penn Station.

The Middle School Group loves to hold bake sales to raise funds for communities in need — this year for the Saturday Kitchen (April 28) and Hurricane Dorian recovery (Oct. 6). They wrote the Prayers of the People for Youth Sunday and for the Christmas Pageant.

On Pentecost, six members of our High School Group were confirmed. The confirmands had participated in three classes led by Deacon Richard and Andrea Dedmon, in addition to regular participation at High School Group.

St. Nicholas Gift Drive and Service

This was the eighth year in which St. Michael's held a gift drive for the children who participate in Trinity Lutheran Church's after-school program and their families. We also collected gifts for children in need within our parish and Saturday Kitchen — this year a total of gifts for 62 children and \$1,980. The money was divided into 33 grocery gift cards worth \$60 each for the families.

For the third year, we coordinated our gift drive with a service celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas. On Dec. 4, following the Family Dinner, all the gifts were brought to the high altar. Children and adults gathered in the chancel to pray, sing, and hear the Godly Play story of St. Nicholas of Myra. After the story, St. Nick himself appeared, and the children brought him the gifts from the altar to take to the children in need.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

The Choirs and Professional Music Staff

Christopher Chen, a first-year doctoral student at Juilliard, was hired to be our Organ Scholar. This is a new position at St. Michael's that is akin to that of a seminarian — to learn the skills of the trade and better discern his future as a professional church musician. His accompaniment frees me up to conduct without having to worry about the complexities of playing at the same time.

The choir maintains steady numbers and continues to explore a wide range of literature, including compositions by our in-house composers. We've introduced the service of Evensong back into our worship in hopes of living more fully into our Episcopalian identity.

We bid a bittersweet farewell to Marilyn Lenat, our soprano II section leader. Marilyn retired after more than 20 years on the professional music staff, having clocked more than 2,000 services.

Our Intersection musicians continue to offer music that explores American roots music, as well as music from other traditions. Intersection is a special joy, enriching the soul and body.

A favorite moment from 2019: Bishop Shin dancing in the jazz mass processional at Pentecost.

The Instruments

The Von Beckerath organ continues to get quite a lot of use with student practice. The half-century-old key tops are cracking from years of use, and the action of the organ is not as fine. But the organ still remains a pilgrimage instrument that people come from around the world to experience.

The dry winter months are doing irreversible damage to the Steinway. At some point, the hammers and pin block will need to be replaced.

In 2019, Gretchen Pusch and Richard Bayles donated a gorgeous Yamaha C3 grand piano to our recital hall. Many thanks to them both! Stand by for news of a dedication concert.

The Hammond Organ is built like a tank and continues to better serve our LEVAS Gospel hymns and Jazz music. In 2019, Raj Harold and Edwin Peralta crafted a gorgeous moveable platform for the instrument and the speaker cabinet.

Contact: John Cantrell, jcantrell@saintmichaelschurch.org

Children's Choirs

This has been an exciting year for the children's choirs at St. Michael's. The Cherub, Angel and St. Cecilia Choirs have welcomed many new members and families to the program as well as many familiar faces and voices. In 2019, the St. Cecilia Choir offered two world premieres by New York composers, as part of an exciting new multi-disciplinary initiative called Habitat: Home. The children's choirs also performed at our Fall Evensong with the adult choir and the Christmas pageant. This spring we are excited for Youth Sunday in June and our Spring Evensong in March, the first of its kind

at St. Michael's to be led exclusively by the St. Cecilia and Angel Choirs. We're proud to provide our choristers with not only a solid foundation in musical training but also friendships to last a lifetime. We look forward to continued growth, fun and singing in the year ahead! Contact: Dusty Francis, dfrancis@saintmichaelschurch.org

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Saturday Kitchen

If you really want to see and feel the Spirit at work, come volunteer at our Saturday Kitchen — a remarkable team of dedicated volunteers who thrive within our larger church community.

Despite gentrification in the neighborhood, we still have many neighbors who are “food insecure.” For more than three decades, we’ve provided a welcoming and unconditional environment where our guests receive a hot sit-down meal. They also can bond socially, receive encouraging feedback from volunteers and depart with a sense of renewal. No one needs to say thank you, but many do.

Every Saturday morning our doors open at 10 to 10:15 a.m. and generally close at 11:30. During that time, we feed 150 to 200 adults and children. If you would like to be part of this mission, come by on Saturday morning at 8:30. Wash your hands, don an apron, do good and have fun. Contact: Marilyn Thompson, compasseye1@gmail.com or Ray Luetters, rayluetters@gmail.com

The Pilgrim Resource Center welcomes Saturday Kitchen guests who stop by the Gray Lounge after eating. The center provides information about other local soup kitchens as well as food pantries, shelters, free clothing, free legal centers, and alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers. During 2019, volunteers prepared vouchers and letters of introduction to these outreach providers. A ready ear is also given to guests in need of someone to listen. We strive for justice, peace, and respect.

The Resource Center periodically distributes toiletries on Saturdays throughout the year. In December, parishioners are asked to donate new gloves, hats and scarves that we offer to the Kitchen’s guests. This year, continuing a tradition, the Knit-Wits and a neighborhood knitter donated scarves to the holiday distribution.

During 2019, Salon West on Amsterdam Avenue and 91st Street offered free haircuts to women and men. The American Barber Institute also gives free haircuts and shaves to men.

The Pilgrim Resource Center thanks everybody who donated funds, toiletries, or in-kind support for this full-service community ministry. Contacts: Ginger Lief, vlief4@verizon.net, Anne Stribling annestr615@aol.com, Juanita Jones, jon2juan@aol.com and Karen Kenney, kraekenney@msn.com.

Midnight Marauders

The heroically — but misleadingly — named Midnight Marauders meet every Friday night at 11 p.m. and via car bring food donated by the Whole Foods at Columbus and 97th to St. Michael’s Parish

House. The food is served at the next morning's Saturday Kitchen. More than 100 parishioners and other volunteers have taken part since the Marauds started in 2013. In 2019 we hauled some 300 big bags of bread and sweets and some 190 boxes of fruit and vegetables.

We're pleased and proud that Jeff Jeffreys recently took the helm as our coordinator. Drivers and schleppers are welcome to join us. Contact: Jeff Jeffreys, jeff1038@hotmail.com

Outreach Committee

Formed early in 2019, the Outreach Committee is meant to live out the Core Value of Community: We cultivate relationships of love and care, within our parish family and beyond. The committee is looking to identify needs in the neighborhood — and strengths within the parish that can help meet those needs. In December the committee issued a survey called Deeds of Grace, designed to discover the volunteer work by parishioners outside St. Michael's. Preliminary results show a range of activities that extend the Lord's work in our neighborhood and even internationally. Stand by for a report and action plan. Contact: Jamie Smarr, jamie.smarr@gmail.com

Garden

From its origins as field and farmland, then part of a small cemetery, St. Michael's Garden has changed over time with the ebb and flow of the neighborhood. In the 25-plus years since Lauren Attinello and Dan Schneider started digging around the grounds, a goal emerged to develop a perennial garden — with fewer annual resource needs and greater rewards in growth and beauty.

New plantings in 2019 include two flowering quince bushes, a Nandina "Gulf Stream" bush (a non-invasive variety with lovely red foliage at different times of the year), and an Osmanthus Heterophyllus Goshiki, aka False Holly, an evergreen shrub along the garden edge next to the rectory.

The garden evolves each year, responding in part to the changes in our weather as well as some of our own work. There is an ongoing battle with rats — a tough job waged mostly by Raj Harold and the maintenance staff. As ever, the goal is to provide a quiet, contemplative haven amid the concrete of the city and to promote as much growth and bloom as possible. Contact: Lauren Attinello and Dan Schneider, otherone@attinello.com

Homework Help provides free "kitchen table" homework help for students in grades K-to-5 every Monday evening from October through May. The program matches students with volunteers, and the pairs work together for an hour each week, primarily on school homework assignments. Although Homework Help focuses on academics, volunteers are encouraged to develop relationships with their students. Additional volunteers are always needed — people willing to commit an hour each week to a student, substitutes who can help once or twice a month, or administrators to help run the program. If you're interested, please contact hhelp@saintmichaelschurch.org. Donna Humphrey, Mary Nash or Kris Ishibashi will get back to you. The program also welcomes contributions of books.

CareerSearchers

After six years of giving people the tools needed to find work in today's job market, this ministry is on hiatus. If you'd like to help revive it, contact Kris Ishibashi, careersearchers@saintmichaelschurch.org.

Knit-Wits

We're a group of knitters and crochet-ers who gather each Sunday following the 10 a.m. service until about 2 p.m. From January through August we focus on knitting for the charities to which we contribute, currently The Seamen's Church Institute (Christmas at Sea), the World War II Museum (knitting for veterans), our Saturday Kitchen guests and prayer shawls for parishioners. Our knitted items are blessed during a service. From September through December we knit for our own needs (Christmas gifts and the like). No experience is necessary to join us. We're happy to teach any and all. Contacts: Helen Benford, 212-663-6728 or Sally Wieser, sw696648@aol.com

Sunday Tours

Our ancestors over the years have enriched the interior of St. Michael's with mosaics, stained glass and other artistic treasures. We love to share our rich history and artistic legacy with members and visitors each Sunday following the 10 a.m. service. We welcome new recruits: Training materials are plentiful and enthusiasm is the primary requirement. Contact: Carol Hamlin, cmcdwh@gmail.com

PARISH LIFE

Whether it was burgers on the grill, homemade chili on a winter's night, pancakes and music on Shrove Tuesday, or coffee and cookies on Sunday morning, Parish Life continued to lift our Core Values of Community, Joy, and Diversity as we gathered as a parish family for celebrations, Family Dinners, and Sunday Hospitality. All these moments were made possible by a host of volunteers who graciously gave their time, talent, and energy.

The year was full of fun and fellowship with many festive celebrations, including our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Pentecost Potluck BBQ, Welcome Back Potluck BBQ, and Christmas Brunch. During the church year, parishioners of all ages were invited to our monthly Family Dinners, led by a rotating team of chefs. And we maintained our Sunday Hospitality after the 10 a.m. service. The St. Michael's staff took charge of the coffee-hour setup and cleanup, easing the volunteer burden.

Anyone and everyone is invited to lend a hand. Contact: Lucy Culver, lucyridge@me.com

St. Michael's Theatre Troupe

The Theatre Troupe was founded in 2018 and ended its first season in 2019. We wrote and performed a handful of original 10-minute plays for the congregation based on themes of transformation, unity, goodness, renewal, family, and help. Now in our second season, we will get

creative with the St. Michael's Core Values in our new repertoire. The troupe's purpose is community and fun and spiritual connection. Whether you participated last year or were part of the audience, all are welcome — no previous experience necessary. Like to write a 10-minute play? Direct and/or act in one? We aim to present our plays in May, which means we have plenty of time to write and rehearse. Contact: Stephanie Braxton, sbraxton1@aol.com

Motherhood of Grace

Created in June 2016, this group enables mothers of special-needs children (of all ages) to come and share stories, hear about one another's struggles, offer support and pray together. Facilitated by Barbara Fazio-McGrory, our 15 members meet once a month. If you (or a woman you know) would be interested in joining. Contact: Barbara Fazio-McGrory, k.mcgrory@gmail.com

Parents of Adolescents Support Group

This group gives parents a chance to gather for mutual support and encouragement in the challenging task of raising adolescents. Barbara Fazio-McGrory facilitates the group. Any parent of an adolescent is welcome to join. Contacts: Barbara Fazio-McGrory, k.mcgrory@gmail.com or Andrea Dedmon, andrea@saintmichaelschurch.org

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2019, I was honored to be hired as the parish's new Communications Coordinator. When I began work, the rector, vestry, and I determined the most critical priority was fixing the parish website. Due to the antiquated system and design, the website needed a complete technical as well as design overhaul. The new design utilized the latest multimedia design features, including marquee video. A team of parishioners who served in a review and consultation role helped shaped the new website. In tandem with the website redesign, efforts were focused on refreshing the St. Michael's logo. I also took over responsibility for communications work previously handled by other staffers, including the production of the online Looking Ahead; the Sunday service bulletin, Parish Update; our Facebook page; and other social media. Contact: Patricia Allen, patty@saintmichaelschurch.org

The Messenger

The newsletter, monthly during the church year, reported on the parish's people, faith and works, with a more lavish use of photos since Father David's arrival, and with articles by some 15 people. To contribute an article or idea, contact Kris Ishibashi, ishibashi0201@gmail.com, Rick Hamlin, frederickwrighthamlin@gmail.com, or John Stickney, stickjt3@gmail.com.

CEMETERY

St. Michael's Cemetery was established in 1852 as a religious cemetery open to all faiths. Located in East Elmhurst, Queens, often referred to as the most diverse community in the world, we allow people of all faiths to practice their beliefs and customs.

In 2019, the cemetery had a total of 768 interments that included in-ground burials, crypt entombments, and niche interments. Our 2,775 cremation services gave us a total of 3,543 total services combining cremation and interments in 2019.

While we're an important part of the mission of St. Michael's Church, we've also become an asset to the communities of Queens. The cemetery was an attraction for several cultural and civic events, including Journey around the World, on the impact of German immigrants in Queens; Memorial Day Flag Posting; Scott Joplin Memorial Tribute Concert; and the Beatles Tribute Concert.

Our collaboration with the church was especially noteworthy this year. Our 2019 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony brought together the community for a memorable evening. Mother Kate officiated the prayer service and blessed the ornaments. There was live Christmas music and everyone was allowed to place a personalized ornament on the tree. Following "Silent Night," Mother Kate hit the switch to light the tree, to oohs and ahhs from the approximately 350 on hand. It was a special night that allowed the staff to show our appreciation and to pray with the families and friends of those interred at the cemetery. Contact: Dennis Werner, dennis@stmichaelscemetery.com

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Acolytes

Two processions grace our sanctuary on a Sunday morning: St. Michael with sword and shield leading his heavenly army into battle in the Tiffany windows above the altar — and in the aisle, acolytes leading our clergy and congregation into worship, bearing the cross, torches, chalice and Book.

The lay ministry of acolytes is a diverse group that reflects the people of the parish. It includes children and adults, men and women. Acolytes are an important, visible part of the spiritual life of the church. They serve during the 10 a.m. Sunday service as well as at weddings, baptisms, funerals and diocesan events. They have also appeared among the Magi at Epiphany, and in the Passion Play on Palm Sunday.

This year, 12 parishioners answered the call to become acolytes, including six children aged 10 and 11. In addition, thanks to a generous gift from the Community of the Holy Spirit, we have a new thurible to cense this holy place. Contacts: Gregory Bryant, gbryant@bmcc.cuny.edu, Lynnette Holder, 2n2e2t1l1y@msn.com or Andrea Dedmon, andrea@saintmichaelschurch.org

Lectors and Intercessors

St. Michael's has a large, enthusiastic group of lectors who read the appointed scripture, and intercessors who lead the Prayers of the People in worship. Lectors and intercessors must speak clearly, loudly, and reverently, with appropriate use of the microphone. Stephanie Braxton, a lector and leader of our Theatre Troupe, has offered one-on-one guidance to any lector or intercessor.

During 2019 we numbered 52 lectors, including 10 young people in 6th grade or above, serving in rotation at the 10 a.m. and other services. Coordinators: Andrea Dedmon for the 10 a.m. lectors; Juanita Pratt for the 7:45 a.m. Please speak with Andrea or Juanita if you would like to be a lector.

Welcome Ministry

Belonging and being connected with others are so important, and yet lacking in much of our secular society. This is where communities, and especially communities of faith, can play an important role. One of our Core Values here at St. Michael's is Community: We cultivate relationships of love and care, within our parish family and beyond.

Last spring, a group from Saint Michael's went to a workshop called Invite Welcome Connect, where we learned about a process of showing hospitality that is reviving and increasing engagement in Episcopal churches around the country. This group is putting together systems and ideas so we can become better through training, workshops and new materials.

The good news is that the work is easy. Welcoming is about really looking at someone and allowing God's love to connect with that person through our presence. All we have to do is to share our name and ask theirs, invite them to coffee hour with us or introduce them to someone else. In these simple yet meaningful ways of welcome, we share the love of God with those seeking connection. Contacts: the Rev. Maryann D. Younger, seminarian@saintmichaelschurch.org, Katy Blake, katy@katyblake.com and Barry Wilson, bwilson257@gmail.com.

Morning Prayer

Every day of the year begins with worship at St. Michael's, thanks to a handful of devoted early risers who lead Morning Prayer in the Chapel, at 7:45 Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. Saturday. Morning Prayer is a simple spoken service lasting about 20 minutes, with time for spontaneous prayer as well as the familiar: The Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed, and three scriptures — a psalm, and lectionary passages from the Old and New Testaments. On Wednesdays and feast days, clergy lead Morning Prayer and offer communion. Every other day belongs to volunteer lay leaders — whose own prayer lives are enriched and enlivened by the chance to lead others.

Jesus said: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18: 20). A total of 979 attended Morning Prayer in Liturgical Year 2019, slightly more than three per day. In Liturgical Year 2020, from Advent through Epiphany, the average is nearly four. Please join us for Morning Prayer. It's the best possible way to start your day! Contact: the clergy.

STEWARDSHIP

The 2020 stewardship campaign “Where Everyone Belongs” yielded pledges of \$585,000 from 174 pledgers. While the number of pledgers is down from a record 191 last year, in dollar terms our pledging is at an all-time high. Our 2020 budget assumes \$600,000 in pledging, so additional pledges are necessary to remain on plan.

This year’s campaign aligned with the introduction of our Core Values. We also aimed to use the campaign to strengthen bonds between parishioners and St. Michael’s in new ways. Our efforts included 10 Harvest Suppers at various parishioners’ homes and a family picnic in Central Park. These meals were attended by close to 100 people. In addition, we celebrated Edgar Dawson’s 100th birthday at our stewardship ingathering in November and held a Karaoke Night on Jan. 11.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Top-line summary: Total projected income is up 3.0% (\$52,555) for 2020 compared to 2019 as budgeted, and total projected expense is up 10.6% (\$197,844).

Expenses that will increase significantly in 2020 (vs. 2019) include:

- Internal expenses (primarily salaries and wages, +12% or \$94,992); and
- External expenses:
 - Health and life insurance expense (+30% or \$56,701),
 - Property/liability insurance premiums (+64% or \$35,000), and
 - The Diocesan assessment (+12.5%, or \$28,157)

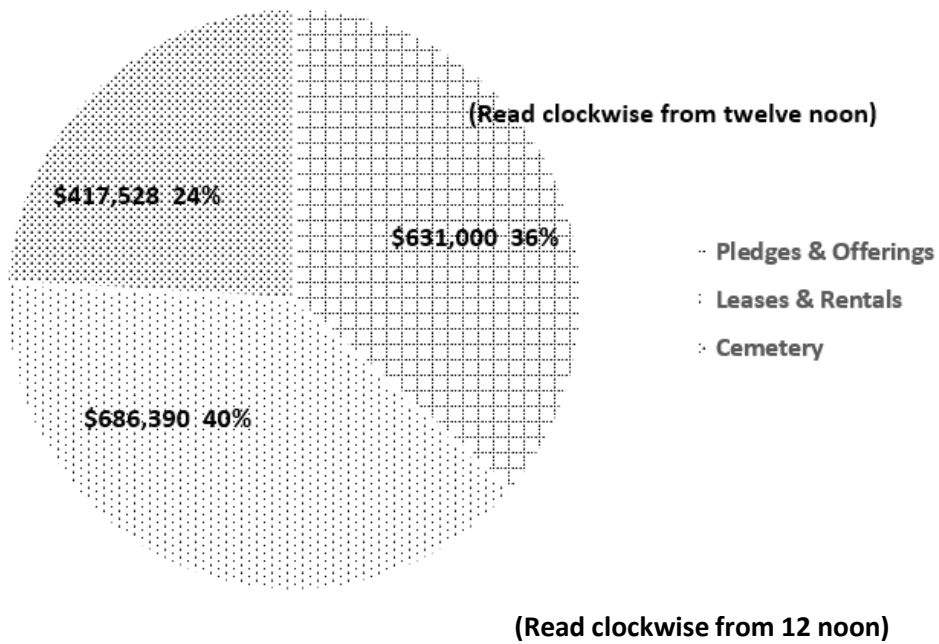
Operating Income				
	2020 Budget	2019 Actual/ 2019 Budget	\$ Change Budget:	% Change Budget:
Tithes and offerings	\$650,000	\$701,868/ 630,000	\$25,000	4.0%
Parish House rentals	\$700,000	\$681,213/ 676,000	24,000	3.6%
Cemetery income	\$420,000	\$416,710/ 417,000	3,000	0.7%
Total, including "other"	\$1,829,173	\$1,845,006/ \$1,773,618	\$55,555	+3.1%

Operating Expenses				
	2020 Budget	2019 Budget	\$\$ change	% change
Pastoral & Music	\$674,000	\$587,000	\$87,000	14.6%
Education	109,000	101,000	8,000	8.6%
Stewardship Communication	100,000	84,000	16,000	19.0%
Administration	494,139	468,921	25,218	5.4%
Maintenance	624,935	565,229	59,706	10.6%
Total	\$2,057,708	\$1,879,864	\$197,844	+10.6%

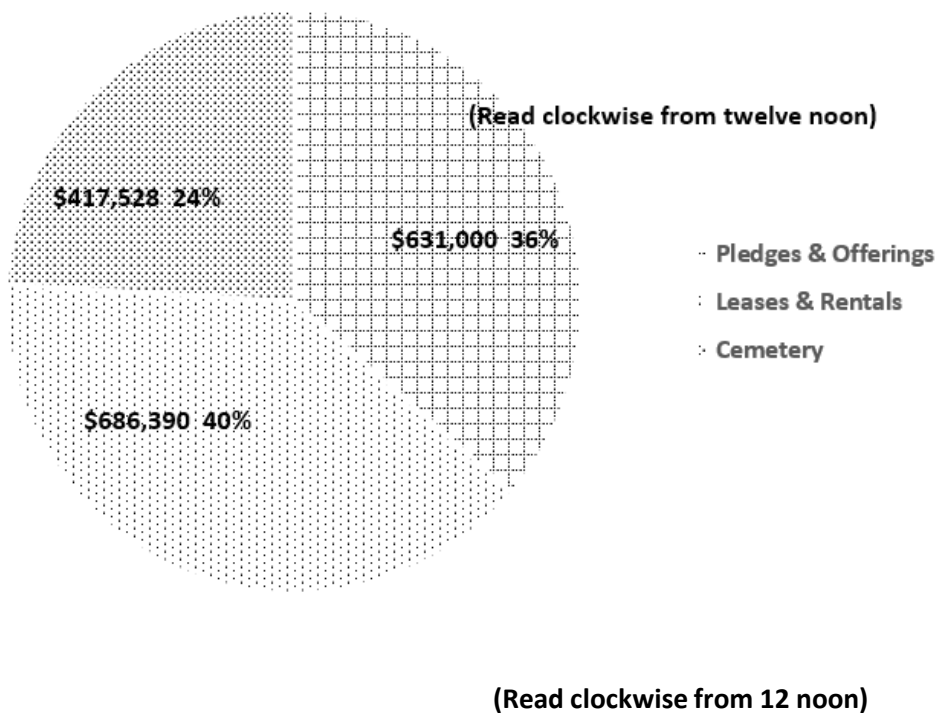
Operating expenses increase at a faster pace than operating income in the 2020 budget compared to 2019.

Contact: Bruce MacEwen bruce@adamsmithesq.com or Meg Parsons meg.l.parsons@gmail.com.

2019 Actual Operating Revenue



2019 Actual Operating Revenue





The Rev. Katharine Flexer, *Rector*, kflexer@saintmichaelschurch.org
The Rev. Julie Hoplamazian, *Associate Rector*, julie@saintmichaelschurch.org
The Rev. David Rider, *Assisting Priest*, drider@saintmichaelschurch.org
The Rev. Deacon Richard Limato, *Deacon*, rplimato@saintmichaelschurch.org
The Rev. Deacon Elena Barnum, *Deacon*, elena@saintmichaelschurch.org
Maryann Younger, *Wisdom Year Resident*, seminarian@saintmichaelschurch.org
Galina Koubassova, *Director of Administration & Finance*, galina@saintmichaelschurch.org
Andrea Dedmon, *Director of Children's and Youth Ministries & Rector's Assistant*,
andrea@saintmichaelschurch.org
Patricia Allen, *Communications Coordinator*, patty@saintmichaelschurch.org
Richard Storm, *Administrative Assistant*, richard@saintmichaelschurch.org
Ashot Yeghiazaryan, *Bookkeeper*, ashot@saintmichaelschurch.org
Prakash (Raj) Harold, *Facilities Manager*, pharold@saintmichaelschurch.org
Shamsad Baksh, Eline Dozil, Edwin Peralta, Omar Santos, Max Santiago, *Maintenance Security*
Carmen Daniell, Abby Powell, *Child Care Providers*
John Cantrell, *Organist and Choirmaster*, jcantrell@saintmichaelschurch.org
Dusty Francis, *Director of Children's Choirs*, dfrancis@saintmichaelschurch.org
Chris Chen, *Organ Scholar*
The St. Michael's Choir, The Cherub Choir,
The Angel Choir, The St. Cecilia Choir

The Vestry:

Gayle Robinson, *Warden* (2021); John Stickney, *Warden* (2019)
John Avery (2022); Gregory Bryant (2019); Lucy Culver (2019);
Robin Elliott, *Assistant Treasurer* (2020); Debbie Humphrey (2022);
Yang Li, *Clerk* (2020); Bruce MacEwen (2021);
W. Bentley MacLeod (2021); Carole O'Connor-Edwards (2019);
Kyle Okimoto (2022); Meg Parsons, *Treasurer* (2020);
Anne Pearce (2021); Susan Wade, *Chancellor* (2020)