

St. Michael's Episcopal Church at the corner of 99th Street and Amsterdam Avenue has long been a vital resource for a community of striking contrasts. Now, with your help, we can dramatically expand our capacity to help meet the needs of our ever-changing neighborhood.



To Welcome and Serve *Everyone*

Our 200-year-old church is building an
ACCESSIBLE third century



To Welcome and Serve *Everyone*

St. Michael's Episcopal Church has served its community for more than 200 years. To meet the needs of the next 200, please help us make our buildings accessible to *everyone*.

Since 1807, St. Michael's has served our neighbors from the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 99th Street in Manhattan.

A multiracial, multiethnic congregation, we're next door to one of the city's largest public-housing projects, and to luxury high-rises.

We welcome everyone, whatever their faith.

But we can't serve people who can't access our historic buildings. So we're building an elevator and two ramps to make our sanctuary and Parish House more welcoming.

To make changes at that scale, we ask for your help.

EXPANDING OUR CAPACITY TO SERVE

Our Parish House is a community center, the 24/7 beating heart of our neighborhood ministries and partnerships. Among them:

- The Saturday Kitchen, serving 350 meals per week, twice as many as pre-pandemic
- Homework Help, one-on-one tutoring, 16 neighborhood kids in 28 one-hour sessions per year
- Three church youth choirs, 19 kids with free music training for all
- La Escuelita, a Spanish-language preschool, 60 students
- The Russian Children's Studio, cultural immersion, more than 100 students
- ChineseTime NYC, cultural immersion, 40 students
- Opportunity Music Project, orchestral training, 78 students
- A performance hall for concerts, rehearsals, lectures, community events
- 12-step groups
- The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players and other cultural organizations that keep the Upper West Side vital
- The Unforgettables Chorus, 50 members, for people with dementia and their caregivers

The Parish House also is a hub for non-parishioner volunteers for the community.

We can serve many more people with a ramp and elevator in the Parish House.

EVERY WEEK



350 Meals

served to those who come to Saturday Kitchen



345 congregants, with
268 families, 85 children



16 neighborhood kids

in Homework Help, with one-on-one tutoring

THE ST. MICHAEL'S ECONOMIC 'HALO EFFECT'

St. Michael's Church and St. Michael's Cemetery, an 88-acre facility in Queens, generate **\$9.6 million** annually in economic activity in the city and beyond, according to a recent study by Partners for Sacred Places. The annual value of pastoral counseling for parishioners and neighbors is estimated at **\$148,000**.

And 87 percent of the people who benefit from a house of worship's presence are not members.



Follow this
link through
Doors Wide Open



The St. Michael's parishioners gather for a family portrait under the Tiffany stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. The space is not currently wheelchair-accessible.

THE CONGREGATION REFLECTS THE NEIGHBORHOOD

St. Michael's 345 members, including 268 families and 85 children, mirror the community's racial, ethnic and socioeconomic mix. The church, long active in interfaith work, partners with local synagogues and other community organizations.

DOORS WIDE OPEN TO A NEW ERA OF SERVICE

St. Michael's history of service to the community goes back to 1818 and its first ministry, a free school for neighborhood children that later became a city public school.

St. Michael's has lasted so long because it has always adapted to meet the needs of an ever-changing neighborhood. Now we must upgrade our facilities and make them accessible.

We call this project Doors Wide Open because our goal is to welcome and serve *everyone*.

With your help, we can do more and serve more, for the good of all.



Within a five-block radius of St. Michael's:

3,196

units of public housing in six separate locations

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where half of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

159

formerly homeless individuals in two supportive housing facilities.



Sources: American Community Survey, 2020; greatschools.org)

1. Kate Flexer, rector
2. Ash Wednesday at the 96th Street subway station
3. Parishioners and neighbors volunteer for Saturday Kitchen.
4. Guests recently include more immigrants and families with children.

WHAT WE PLAN

PHASE I focuses on making our buildings more accessible and welcoming: Work is scheduled to be finished in early 2024.

- An elevator in the Parish House, with a garden ramp from 99th Street to the basement
- A ramp to the church front doors on Amsterdam Avenue
- New ADA-compliant restrooms
- Upgrades to critical infrastructure, including storm drainage, electrical supply and replacement of crumbling steam and water pipes
- A more graceful connection between the church and Parish House, including a new ADA-compliant bridge to the choir loft

PHASE II will continue to modernize our buildings to meet 21st-century expectations

- Restore the performance hall
- Upgrade the kitchen
- Improve the office spaces and develop more functional group meeting spaces

HOW WE'LL FINANCE OUR PLAN

St. Michael's is blessed with several revenue sources, including the church cemetery in Queens; Parish House tenants; a leasehold apartment building at Amsterdam Avenue and 100th Street; and church endowments. These sources are being judiciously used to support the renovation.

We also will depend on fundraising from our **Doors Wide Open** campaign. **Doors Wide Open** isn't a mere slogan. It's a campaign with the visionary purpose of extending the mission of this place for a third century.

Our Phase I goal is **\$2 million** (with \$1 million already committed and growing!).

A project on this scale needs *everyone's* help.

After Phase I is completed, we'll review our needs, resources and aspirations for Phase II.

CONTACT

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St. Michael's Episcopal Church

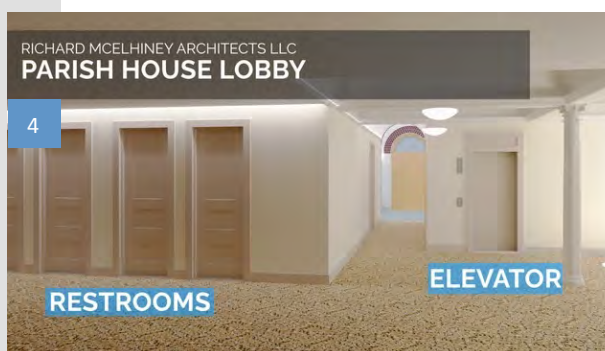
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saintmichaelschurch.org



Follow this link through
Doors Wide Open



1. An architect captures our vision of a campus accessible to all: the church and Parish House with a ramp from West 99th Street to an elevator within the Parish House.
2. Unearthing and replacing a century-old steam pipe from the Parish House.
3. On Amsterdam Avenue, a ramp will rise through the loggia to our blue front doors, open even wider now.
4. An elevator opens up the Parish House.



A LONG TRADITION OF COMMUNITY MINISTRY

1800

St. Michael's, founded in 1807, has always reached out to the community.

Original pew-holders included prominent New York City families such as DePeyster, Rhineland, Scheffelin, Schermerhorn, Van Horne and Vandenhevel.



In 1852, St. Michael's established its cemetery in Queens, with burial open to all. The cemetery maintains close ties with that borough's multiple nationalities and faith communities. The cemetery also hosts annual commemorations of notable New Yorkers buried within its 88 acres, including Sept. 11 first responders and the composer Scott Joplin.



St. Michael's built the Parish House in 1901 to manage the church's service ministries, including neighborhood civic clubs, the Bloomingdale Free Clinic, the District Nurse Association and free kindergarten programs.

1850

In 1818, St. Michael's established a free school for neighborhood children that eventually turned into a city public school.

During the 19th century, St. Michael's ministered to the

Leake and Watts Orphanage, the Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum, the House of Mercy and St. Barnabas' House, and founded the City Mission Society and the Sheltering Arms, now the children-and-family services agency that thrives today.



1900

During the early 20th century, St. Michael's helped establish St. Jude's Chapel in rental spaces to serve the neighborhood's African-American community. Floarda Howard, an African-American priest, served as vicar. St. Jude's flourished and, in 1921, moved into its own new building at 19 W. 99th St.



1950

Following World War II, the Upper West Side experienced economic decline. During the 1950s, planning czar Robert Moses razed 32 acres of buildings east of St. Michael's — including St. Jude's. Throughout this upheaval, the Parish House remained open to the community.

George W. Brandt Jr., St. Michael's first Black rector, presided over a period of church and neighborhood resurgence from 1994 until his retirement in 2011.

During the St. Michael's Bicentennial in 2007, the altar from St. Jude's Chapel was installed and reconsecrated at St. Michael's. Today our Reparations Committee is looking into the legacy of church and chapel.

2000

Frederick Hill, who became rector in 1976, welcomed the neighborhood's many newcomers: Caribbean, Hispanic, African, Indian and Asian. During the 1980s, St. Michael's became a hub of ministry to people with AIDS. The Saturday Kitchen began in 1983.

Now with Kate Flexer, our first female rector, St. Michael's is addressing a changing Upper West Side with a view to the third century — and beyond — of worshiping and serving, as the church motto proclaims.

FROM THE ST. MICHAEL'S CORE VALUES

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.

Background Image: In 1890, the present church rose around the second church as St. Michael's expanded to serve the neighborhood.