

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church
2023 Annual Report
January 28, 2024**



OUR MISSION

Centered in our love for Jesus, we worship God, reach out to those in need, celebrate our blessings, and love and care for each other. We are inclusive and welcoming of all God's people. Together, we strive to faithfully meet the challenges of a changing world.

There are many who lead and many who follow in this parish. Often it is the same person who does both in different capacities. Yet it is the One true Shepherd, Jesus who we all strive to follow without fail. We give thanks every Sunday for the blessings and gifts we receive during the week and we come to the rail in humility, courage, and strength from one another to offer our lives and ourselves to Christ. This report is a means to take stock in what our offerings have been for the past year.

Consistently we have been extravagant in our giving of time, treasure, and talent. But there are places we may have fallen short. Let us look to God to help us see the ways in which we may follow Jesus more faithfully and be a good and loving neighbor to those around us.

We pray to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, may the offerings we give always be acceptable in your sight. **Amen.**

The Rt. Rev. Megan M. Traquair

The Bishop of the diocese of Northern California

The Rev. Mary C. Claugus, Rector

Pastor Katie Holeman, Assisting Priest

The Rev. Rodney Davis, Associate

The Rev. Dr. Roy Whitten, Associate

The Rev. Jesse Vaughan, Associate

Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot, Solitary Franciscan Nun

John Cozza, Music Director

Constance Weichert, Music Director Emerita

Kate Muris & Paula Frink, Music Librarians Emeriti

Michelle Falcy, Parish Administrator

Andy Chamness, Sexton

Jack Cozza, Videographer

John Quené, Treasurer

Kate Muris, Bookkeeper

Jim Sargent, IT

Diane Rehrer-Salisbury, Diane Gilmore, Eileen Thomas, Karen Christie, Sue Corbin,

Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot Office Volunteers

Vestry

Tammy Murray, Senior Warden

Doug Davy, Junior Warden

Chris Chamness, Clerk

Andrea LaMattina, Pamela Lueders, Rick Larkey, Renée Pierce, Jan West,

Rick Larkey, Jane Samuelson, Mary Kessler

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Minutes from the Hybrid Annual Meeting
January 22, 2023

Doug Davy, Sr. Warden 2022, called the meeting to order at 11:42 am.

Approval of Hybrid Meeting: The meeting is planned to be conducted both in person in the St. Michael's church sanctuary and via Zoom. Doug calls for a motion that those members that are present approve conducting the annual meeting in hybrid form. Renee Pierce so moved and Jim Dodds seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes 2023: Doug asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the 2022 Annual Meeting via Zoom held on January 23, 2022. Andrea LaMattina so moved and Renee Pierce seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Senior Warden's Report: Doug Davy stressed the challenges and struggles that were beyond our control such as COVID that have confronted our parish. The demands of the Pandemic have been burdensome and the adjustments difficult and painful. We have not completely returned to a "normal" state. Still, St. Michael's has risen to the occasion and achieved noteworthy accomplishments. We continue to implement innovative technical solutions in communication. We continue to fulfill our Christian mission. So even though personal direct participation has been restricted, one noteworthy accomplishment is that the vestry approved \$100,000 in grants paid from excess reserves that were disbursed to 3 deserving recipients: River City Food Bank, Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center and Women's Empowerment. Also, at our fall fundraiser we brought in over \$50,000 for Outreach.

Financial Report: Church Treasurer, John Quene, briefing from his first slide, an overview of St. Michael's 2022 Actual financials, reported that the year-end results for 2022 were acceptable given that the beyond our control unrealized stock market funds loss in value was -\$167,546. That market loss plus the one-time grant of \$100,000 paid from investment funds and the bookkeeping depreciation of buildings entry of -\$53,423 go a long way towards explaining the total net income loss of -\$214,898. In fact, the Net Income after School Reimbursement/Expenses for 2022 was a positive \$73,088. Although COVID caused lower church attendance, the giving by our members remained large. In 2022, actual paid Pledges of \$503,806 were great and loose offerings of \$106,318 were exceptional. The Church Financials for the 2022 Year are comprehensively set forth in the Treasurer's Report and Financials found in the 2022 Annual Report. John then briefed from his second slide, a summary of the 2023 Church Budget which was approved by the vestry at its January meeting:

- The budgeted pledge income is conservative because actual pledges are now over \$529,000 for 2023 and historically the actual paid pledges exceed the initial pledges made.
- The Loose Offerings entry has been lowered to \$53,600, about half of the extraordinary 2022 receipts.
- Fundraising income is projected to be \$32,000, much less than the before expense actual fund-raising income in 2022 of \$58,502 which was sort of a fortuitous anomaly.
- Investment income of \$18,000 is projected by projecting a mild stock market recovery.
- There was a non-recurring 2022 roof repair expense of \$39,500. In terms of expense, the budget also shows higher salary expense because of a 3% cost of living adjustment.

- The 2023 Budget is conservative with a projected net income after school reimbursement of \$1,377 and after including other income/expenses not managed by the vestry with a projected net income of \$11,577.

More detailed budget information is contained in the written Treasurer's Report and Financials in the 2022 Annual Report.

Rector's Report: Rev. Mary began by looking back over the past year, asking for a moment of silence to honor the ten members we have lost. Our church celebrated 14 celebrations of life in 2022.

She then thanked the retiring vestry members: Kate Muris, Jr. Warden Marlo Tinney, Clerk Eileen Thomas, and Bob McMichael for their years of service. There were no Silver Bell and no Silver Wings awards this year.

Looking back, Rev. Mary remembered a year of the church and its parishioners doing amazing things. She then began thanking individual people who keep us straight and for whom she very much appreciates. First she welcomed our new Assisting Priest Pastor Katie Holeman who from the beginning has been a productive asset to the church. She thanked Father Rod Davis for his continuing generous and spiritual service to St. Michael's. She was especially appreciative of Michelle Faley, the parish administrator who does so much more with her extraordinary ability and skills, who always gets it right and about whom she has not heard a single negative thing. Of course, Rev. Mary also welcomed Audrey, Michelle's adorable infant daughter who often accompanies her mom to work. To John Cozza there was a well-deserved shout out for his keeping the choir and church program up and going, especially during the Pandemic. Jack Cozza, a UC Davis student in his first job as our videographer was also singled out for commendation. Sexton Andy Chamness received her admiration for never saying no and always being reliable and ready to help and being enthusiastic in his duties. Andy also assisted Michelle by his preparing the new church nursery and other handy-man accommodations.

Rev. Mary asked for volunteers for the Vestry, to fill one vacant 3 year position and one 1 year position. As for Stewardship, our pledges are now over \$525,000. She told of the heartfelt thanks by recipients of our generous large grants by relating the sharing to her by retired Sacramento District Attorney Jan Scully that she had never heard of a church doing such a thing and that St. Michael's must be very special. Rev. Mary agreed that it is an amazing place that does incredible work in outreach and is faithful to the message of Jesus.

Not only do we need to continue our strong spirituality, but we also need to grow the church. When she first came to our church, Rev. Mary's vision was "Grow in God". In 2023 the vision is "Grow with Us". So please invite family and friends to attend our church. Invite the people around us to come, to love God and to serve those who are needy ... to seek something bigger than ourselves. Rev. Mary loves her job, but it is difficult. Yet she still loves it. And so she gives a huge thank you to all of us. She is grateful and very appreciative of all of us for what we are and what we do. There is much more to be read in the Rector's Report in the 2022 Annual Report.

Election of New Vestry Members and Diocesan Delegates: Doug Davy read the names of the nominated vestry members for 2023 to 2025. There were not more candidates than open positions and all three nominees have been publicly noted and their biographies have been printed for three weeks in the parish bi-weekly communication. The nominees are:

- Tammy Murray
- Renee Pierce
- Chris Chamness

Jim Dodds moved to accept the named 3 candidates for the 2023 to 2025 Vestry by acclamation, and Renee Pierce seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Doug Davy then read the names of the seven candidates for Delegates to the 2023 Diocesan Convention. There were not more candidates than open positions. The candidates are:

- Holly Yue
- Mary Davy
- Suzanne Phinney
- Kate Muris
- Renee Pierce
- Sr. Tina Ferriot
- Janice Bowdler

John Quene moved to accept the seven named delegates to the 2023 Diocesan Convention by acclamation. Dancy Dobrenick seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Sr. Tina Ferriot aka Francesca moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Dodds seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Rev. Mary asked the vestry to include new members to meet in the Friendship Room after the parish meal.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher L. Chamness, Clerk

The Rector's Report **The Reverend Mary Claugus**

I have been blessed to be the Rector of St. Michael's for over 10 years. Our work together has been challenging for we live amid a rapidly changing world. Yet our church continues to be a place that has a vibrancy that transcends our numbers - no matter how you measure. What I saw so clearly this past year was love. I have the privilege of receiving and witnessing people stepping up to help with so many different things. There are so many that I truly cannot name everyone, and I certainly cannot name everything done out of love for the church and for our community of believers - yet instinctively I know that is what makes us vibrant.

It is not a romantic, ethereal love. It is a love that speaks and shows up. I heard one person say, "I just showed up to help and let her know when I would be back." Now I know that there are people in our congregation who are disconnected. For this, I am so very sorry. I consider it a failing on my part - for it is my job, my vocation, my very desire to connect with people. This connection does not simply stop with connecting people. What makes us special is that we also connect people with service, people with education, and people with processes that help grow God's love. I do not want to imply that I am the only one at St. Michael's doing this. I am the least of these. AND so, I offer this invitation. If you have not made a connection and need to - please reach out - to other members, to another clergy, to me and be honest. Ask for connection, Seek what you need, Knock on the doors of the church. For love is here, I can assure you of that. I recognize that sometimes it can be difficult to find, difficult to ask for, and maybe the most difficult to accept.

However, when you get connected, there will be a time when you must move, and people will just show up to move you. There will be an appointment you need to get to, and someone will be there to ask if you need a ride. There will be a movie you want to see, and at St. Michael's, there will be others who will want to join you if you ask. When I first started ordained work in the church, I had a bit distain for the "country club" church. I still may have it. However, after 10 and half years of leading a church, I am humble enough to say that most of the work, love, and growth happens beyond the walls of the church and in the community of believers and for this to happen, there needs to be opportunities to simply be together and to eat together - with no agenda except to connect. Getting in the middle of the community of believers is what will save your soul - for that is where God resides - no matter where that community shows up. It can be in someone's backyard or at the movies - Love and connection goes wherever God chooses to be!

Faithfully, Rev. Mary

A place to receive the presence of Christ within us, surrounded by beauty in Worship. We added the Eucharistic Ministers back to serving the chalice again, rather than just holding the paten for the priests as it has been. Later in the year, we also added the ability to sip from the chalice, as well as intinction. St. Michael's Worship Services included:

- Sunday 10am Services - 52 services with an average Sunday attendance of 90 people. Our worship services have been enhanced greatly by the wonderful music the choir provides, its new repertoire, and its guest musicians.
- In November, our 5pm Zoom service expanded to include in-person attendance with Zoom, creating a hybrid service. A screen is behind the Altar so that the people on zoom are "in the sanctuary" with us as we gather to worship and pray. We conducted 38 Zoom services with an

average Sunday attendance of 20 through October. We held 9 hybrid services with an average attendance of 17.

- We have a new 8:30am Friday Eucharist. This service began in September and is an intimate Eucharist with a 20-minute silent sit organized by The Rev. Rodney Davis. 15 services with an average of 9 people attending.
- Weekly Daily Office: We offer Morning Prayer four times a week (Monday through Thursday) on Zoom. It is a gem in our offerings. 208 services were conducted with an average of 6 attendees each. Weekly Thursday Prayers at Noonday take place after Bible Study. Compline was offered by Facebook Live until mid-June.
- We had 12 Baptisms.
- We had 8 Celebrations of Life.
- Services with St. Michael's Episcopal Day School: Baccalaureate, a Sunday Service that honors the 8th graders from the Day School. In addition, we had one faculty Eucharist at the beginning of the year and four School Eucharists; St. Michael's Feast Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Pentecost with an average attendance of 217.
- Special Service for the Bishop receiving the Life Vows of Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot as a Solitary Franciscan Nun.

A place to come and find community. We continue to care for our property, so we have a place for people to meet and work together to create a community grounded in God's love.

Care for our Property

- We added steppingstones to the side areas of the Sanctuary where we have two statues of St. Francis of Assisi. At the All-Souls service in 2022, we made steppingstones, all adding pebbles and things to represent our prayers and the people who died.
- A Green Team was formed to work on a plan to reduce our carbon footprint, working our way to be carbon neutral by 2030. A resolution was passed at the 2022 Diocesan Convention requiring a plan by 2024. Rick Larkey is the leader of the group of Pat Cole, Sue Gaston, Rev. Mary and John Quené. The school has committed to working with us to have a plan for the whole campus.
- The school is beginning the initial work on a new Master Plan. This is in keeping with their current strategic plan.
- What was the front conference room was refreshed and is now our Godly Play classroom for our youngest members to hear the stories we love so dearly.
- Jan West, a member of the vestry is working with a Boy Scout from troop 802 to re-landscape the area adjacent to the south side of the sanctuary. The work will start in 2024 but the planning began in 2023. It is exciting!

A place to meet - we had 7 gathering events in 2023.

- Starry Night was a very successful dinner party we held which included a chance to sign up for "parties" that were sponsored by members of the congregation and tickets sold at the event. In total we raised \$8,100. It was a very fun night that Renée Pierce, Ellen Cehand, and her crew organized for our congregation to gather for fellowship, and we raised some money for outreach as well. Between the money raised at this event and money from the 2022 Fall fundraiser, St. Michael's was able to give \$24,000 in grants. This does not include the money we give to The Center @ St. Matthew's, Loaves & Fishes, and River City Food Bank monthly. Nor does it include the money collected during our diaper drive, backpack project for Starr King K-8, or Easter Cards and Thanksgiving Cards. In total, St. Michael's gave over \$71,400 to partners and organizations reaching out to our neighbors.

- In the first part of the year, St. Michael's had several memorials in a very short amount of time. The staff and all the worship teams (including those who help with the receptions) went above and beyond to make each Celebration of Life special. To show appreciation, the Vestry hosted a Gratitude Luncheon to the staff and members who helped with these services and receptions. The gesture was appreciated by all.
- An Altar Guild Luncheon was hosted by Rev. Mary to show the clergy's appreciation for all the Altar Guild does to support our worship.
- St. Michael's hosted a "Welcome" Brunch which was held at Bella Bru. It was attended by more than 20 new members.
- We also had a lovely In-Gathering Barbecue to celebrate St. Michael's successful stewardship drive, ministries, and congregation.
- We had a catered Annual Meeting Luncheon that was served by one of our own members, Jose Maria Diaz. It was a very lovely luncheon. He also catered our dinner for those who attended Lessons & Carols Dinner this year. It was delicious!

A place to work together to create a community grounded in God's love

- Rise Against Hunger. We had over 75 people come and package over 15,000 meals that were distributed in Vietnam.
- Habitat for Humanity. We continued to participate in the Build for Unity project, something we have been engaged in since its inception in 2016. Additionally, this year we also had people help with "Rock the Block" twice. The first time 4 people went, the second 10 people went and helped. It is a program that helps with home maintenance for people who need it. Terry Bridges is our fearless leader who took over the organization and leadership from Dancy Dobrenick.
- The Indoor Yard Sale was held once again this year, thanks again to our leaders Gail McMichael and Marcie Larkey. It was very successful raising over \$5,800 and with what was left, we supported American Cancer – Discovery Thrift Shop, Carmichael HART, Disabled American Veterans, Family Promise, Floyd Elementary School Clothes Closet, Carmichael Library and Book Den, International Rescue Committee, Lion's Club Folsom Prison Project, Loaves & Fishes, and Starr King K-8.

A place that plans to be here for the future - Office, Administration, and Governance

The Vestry began the foundational work of setting goals and objectives this year. In March, the Vestry met and discerned the following goals:

- Goal 1: Member Ministry (Ministry to our existing members)—Optimize, increase, and evaluate opportunities to engage existing members to grow in God.
- Goal 2: Spiritual Formation—Offer spiritual opportunities that draw us into a relationship with Jesus no matter where we are in our spiritual journey.
- Goal 3: Neighborhood and New Members—Attract, engage, and develop our neighbors to become new members to grow in God.
- Goal 4: All are Welcome—Promote Diversity, Equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- Goal 5: Children, Youth, and Young Adults—Offer opportunities for children, youth, and young adults to develop their spirituality, to grow in God.
- Goal 6: Green Team—With the National Church and Diocese, move towards carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Goal 7: Expand Outreach Opportunities—Reaching out to those in need. working on 2-year goals and planning at their retreat in March.

In September, the Vestry facilitated three World Cafés to listen to the ideas of the congregation regarding how to take action on the seven goals. Ideas were shared in a summary with the congregation and small groups were formed to parse out the ideas and determine objectives to realize the goals determined. We are in the process at this time in looking at all the objectives submitted by the working groups, finding collaborative areas between groups, and then submitting them to the congregation for a final look.

Amending the current bylaws. The vestry worked on updating the 2004 bylaws. At the annual meeting, the congregation will vote to approve the amended bylaws.

For the first time we closed the office for one week to clean and reorganize. It was a great success. Storage, cupboards, files, and more, were all re-organized. The week ended with our carpets and classroom floors being cleaned.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Mary Claugus

The Senior Warden's Report Tammy Murray

St. Michael's commitment to outreach and funding of worthy organizations continues to be such a strong and vital component of our mission.

Due to strong fundraising and generous donations, we were able to designate \$28,000 this year for outreach. The Vesty committed \$14,000 to Parishioner Guided Grants through our Mercy and Social Justice Committee (please see designees in that report); \$10,000 to the Episcopal Relief and Development to support ongoing needs in the world; and \$4,000 to be kept in reserve for ongoing future relief projects.

Ongoing outreach continues throughout the year; Winter Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Rise Against Hunger, collection for school supplies in the fall, coats for the winter; gifts cards during the holidays, diaper drive...it goes on. The generosity of St. Michael's is humbling. This is possible due to individual donations and our fundraisers. Thank you all who contribute with your time, treasure, and talent.

During COVID, many memorial services were postponed, so in 2022 and 2023, many memorial services were held. A much needed thank you was given to all those ministries who were involved in these services. These ministries freely give of their time and talent to these families in these services of their loved ones.

In June, the Vestry came together to begin the Strategic Plan for the next 3 years. Seven goals were drafted. To provide a road map to accomplish these goals, parishioners were invited to World Café's in September to elicit the parishes inputs on the goals. There were two in-person meetings, a Zoom meeting, a makeup of interested people, and an opportunity to send information on-line. It takes many people to make these World Café's successful...thank you to the facilitators and recorders, and participants that made this work! Also, to Michelle, who we could not do without!

With this information, groups were assigned to each goal, consisting of a staff member, vestry member and parishioners to develop objectives for each goal. These groups are looking at the information gathered at the World Café's to develop the objectives.

St. Michael's needed to update our By-Laws this year. Thank you to Reverend Mary, Doug Davy, Chris Chamness and Todd Murray for their work to update these By-Laws. They were approved by the Vestry in December and will be presented at our Annual Meeting in January.

We also celebrated Reverend Mary's ten years here at St. Michaels. We are so grateful for her dedication and love of St. Michael's. A lovely tribute booklet was given to her with testimonials from our leadership. Thank you to Kate Muris for shepherding this wonderful booklet. Look around at what we have accomplished during her ten years! Thank you Reverend Mary!!

It has been a privilege to serve as Senior Warden at St. Michael's. We survived the pandemic and I feel we have truly thrived. Thank you all for your commitment to St. Michaels!

Building & Grounds Report John Quené

Once again, I would like to start off by thanking Andy Chamness, who performed so many unnoticed repairs to the buildings. He fixed faucets, toilets, pruned trees and hedges that were overgrown and many more things that we are not even aware of.

The courtyard fountain finally got fixed. Initially we were looking at a bill well over \$10,000 as we were told that the fault was underground and that the electric line feeding the pump needed to be replaced. We found a contractor who discovered the real source of the problem and it got fixed for less than a \$1,000.

In December we had problems with our heating in the church. This was fixed in time for Christmas and we should not have any problems with the furnace in the church for the next few years.

Submitted faithfully,

John Quené

The Junior Warden's Report Doug Davy

St. Michaels' Vestry held a strategic planning retreat to set short- and medium-term goals and objectives for the church and community, based on last year's SWOT ("strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats") analysis. The Vestry has followed up the goal setting with the development of specific objectives to match each broad goal. The Vestry involved the Parish in creating objectives through a series of World Café meetings to gather ideas and impressions and committee meetings for each goal to finalize the objectives.

We are responding to the Diocese's and The Episcopal Church's (TEC's) call for all parishes to address the need to take responsibility for our part in global climate change. A Diocesan Resolution requests each parish to prepare a plan to become carbon neutral by 2030. St. Michaels' efforts began with an inventory of incandescent lights for conversion to energy-saving LED lights. Given the increasingly apparent scale of the effort and potential for subsidies from SMUD and governmental agencies, we formed a committee ("The Green Team") under the leadership of Rick Larkey to prepare our carbon footprint assessment and plan for carbon neutrality. Look for periodic reports and updates on progress and opportunities from the Green Team.

Thank you to our clergy, staff and parishioners for all of your good work and your generosity. May the strong ethos of community and generosity that is a hallmark of St. Michael's continue here for a long time to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Davy
2023 St. Michael's Junior Warden

Staff, Vestry, and Diocesan Delegates **The Rev. Mary Claugus**

Staff and Office

At St. Michael's, our staff is made up of people who are paid and people who are not, and I want to say, all the staff put their hearts, minds, bodies, and souls into their work. **Michelle Falcu** and her sidekick Audrey, continue to run things. Michelle continues to organize the chaos around her and makes sense of what needs to be attended to. The church has been very accepting of Audrey coming to work with Michelle and it has been a wonderful work and life experiment. The church has had the delight of having the wonder of a young child among us and Audrey has had a village raise her up.

We owe **Andy Chamness**, our Sexton, much gratitude. He has made himself consistently available to our needs and makes ministry so much easier by having what we need available when we need it.

John Cozza, Minister of Music, has done an outstanding job of keeping our music fresh and our choir well-rehearsed. We enjoyed some new carols at Christmas and new anthems throughout the year. Thank you, John, for your leadership with the choir and the guest musicians that come to play with us.

Jack Cozza, Videographer, has really stepped up this year and adapted to our ever-changing needs. Mid-year, we decided to livestream all our memorials and Jack was here to do it. In November, the 5pm service began meeting in person again. Jack works the cameras, the zoom, and the music for that service. Jack, you are very much appreciated by all of us at St. Michael's.

We are all grateful for the dedication and work of **Pastor Katie Holeman**. She brings the Lutheran tradition with her which includes new insights and different ways to do ministry. Under her excellent leadership, our two-week theater camp was a great experience for the campers, the camp staff, and all the volunteers from the church that contributed to its success. The theater camp help build relationships with SMED School families and other families in the neighborhood. Pastor Katie, with the nursery staff, has created an excellent program for the youngest in our congregation. And if you missed it, you should check out the Christmas Eve Pageant. Also, we have been fortunate to have Pastor Katie lead in a myriad of other ways: preaching, teaching, celebrating the Eucharist, and pastoring to our many members. Thank you, Katie, for all you do!

Fr. Rod Davis has switched up his ministry here at St. Michael's this past year. We are super grateful for his leadership of the 5pm for the past twelve years. Yes, it has been that long. In November, Fr. Rod began a Friday, 8:30am contemplative Eucharist. Already he has quite a following, no surprise there! Thank you Fr. Rod!

The **Office Volunteers, Diane Gilmore, Diane Rehrer-Salisbury, Mary Ellen Ferguson, Eileen Thomas, Karen Christie, Sue Corbin, Jim Sargent, and Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot** have all given a great deal of time and talent helping in the office. They help with communication, IT, babysitting (this is a big one and the best one!) and answering phones. I know there are many things they do, these are our silent workers who just get things done when they need to be done!

I want to acknowledge the past several years of dedicated work that **Kate Muris** has done for our church. Kate has been bookkeeper, pledge secretary, and payroll person. She is involved in many other aspects of the church, also equally important, but right here I want to lift up her consistency, dedication, and willingness to work several hours a week to keep our finances recorded properly, our checks deposited, and our bills paid. Church accounting is complicated, and Kate has truly done a remarkable job keeping up with the demands of it as a volunteer and has done it with willingness and graciousness. Kate literally keeps the lights on by paying our bills on time! Thank you, Kate so much for all your time and talent. She is retiring from this role to make room for other things that God is calling her into. We are grateful to welcome **David Daigh** to our team as our new bookkeeper! Hurray!

We are very blessed to have **John Quené** as the treasurer for St. Michael's. As with the tradition of Jim Sargent and Bob McMichael previously, he is patient, kind, smart, and diligent. Something I really appreciate about John is how easy going he is. This ease does not come from a lack of caring, rather it comes from a deep faithfulness in God and the goodness of people. In some places, finances can be a source of anxiety. Due to the congregation's generosity and John's nature, it is not so with St. Michael's. Thank you for keeping our finances stable, we all appreciate it very much!

There are two ministry areas I would like to add to this group I call "Staff". Worship is the first and with it I would like to thank **Janice Bowdler** for her dedicated service and offering of talents this past year. Janice has been a faithful and wonderful leader of the Alter Guild for many years. I believe everyone on Altar Guild would agree that Janice is a special kind of leader and mentor and we have been exceedingly fortunate to have her in this capacity. She too is stepping down to make room for someone else to take on that leadership. I am delighted to welcome **Laura Quené** as our new leader of the Altar Guild and to her I also say, Hurray!

The second ministry area is Mercy & Social Justice. This past year, **Dancy Dobrenick** has been the leader of this ministry and has led the committee through some real change. I am grateful for her courage, diligence, and grace in doing so, helping this ministry grow.

I also want to thank the vestry and diocesan delegates. It has been a delight to work with Tammy Murray, Senior Warden. When I asked Tammy to be on vestry and Senior Warden, I was not anticipating the extent that Tammy's talents were needed. I am grateful for Tammy's willingness to say, Yes! Tammy, with the vestry, and John Quené, treasurer, led the congregation through a planning process that began with identifying goals. They then reached out to the whole congregation to offer ideas. These ideas are now being developed into objectives which will then be a great roadmap for our immediate future. The goals can be found in The Rector's Report. I am so grateful for the members of this past year's vestry: **Tammy Murray, Doug Davy, Chris Chamness, Andrea LaMattina, Pamela Lueders, Mary Kessler, Jane Samuelson, Jan West, Rick Larkey, and Renee Pierce**. We will miss Pam, Jan, and Andrea this coming year while ready to welcome the newest members that will join us at the Annual Meeting, January 28, 2024. It was great to meet in person once again for Diocesan Convention. I appreciate the work of the

folks who represented St. Michael’s: **Dianne Robbins, Lee Raney, Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot, Kate Muris, Renée Pierce, and Holly Yue.**

I want to thank all these folks who put their heart, mind, body (especially Andy), and souls into their work. It is greatly appreciated!

Stewardship Chris Chamness

The Stewardship 2024 Committee once again delivered a successful Pledge Campaign. The primary reason for the campaign’s very productive pledge drive is the traditional and reliable limitless generosity of our Saint Michael’s parishioners. Year in and year out this giving congregation comes forward with a truly amazing abundance of financial “treasure” to support the manifold Christian missions of our church. The year-end pledges were over \$549,000, exceeding the prior year’s already awesome amount by over \$20,000. The Pledge Campaign was condensed into four weeks only, beginning with the kick-off article “Continuing the March” in the Messenger for the week of August 28th and continuing until Ingathering Sunday, September 24th complete with a ceremonial gathering of pledges and an after service Barbeque meal. The stewardship theme was “Celebrate God’s infinite love by giving back to God with grateful hearts”. There were three Sunday church service testimonials given by David Daigh, Terry Bridges and Susan Johnson. Timely articles on Stewardship themes by Rev. Mary, Stewardship Chair Chris Chamness, Senior Warden Tammy Murray, and Mary Davy (“God is Calling You”) were published in the Messenger. The guest preacher on September 2nd was Lutheran Pastor Frank Espregen from St. John’s Lutheran Church of Sacramento. The joint pledge card transmittal letter from the Rector, Senior Warden and Stewardship Chair included a prayer composed by Pastor Katie printed on a card beautifully illustrated with artwork by Michael Johnson. The Stewardship Campaign was highlighted by a barbeque picnic meal in the courtyard/parish hall featuring hamburgers, veggie-burgers, hotdogs, various beverages, packaged chips and even ice cream bars! Suzanne Phinney led the meal subcommittee and Michael Johnson and crew, Eileen Thomas, Gail McMichael, St. Francis High School volunteers and many others did the actual meal preparation, serving and clean-up. This year Pastor Katie was the clergy advisor, noted for her efficient, all-business approach to meetings. Key behind the scenes committee members were Doug Davy, Suzanne Phinney and Renee Pierce. Although there was one fewer pledge for 2024, there were 8 new pledgers and 48 pledgers who increased their giving. Of the 9 non-renewing “lost” pledgers, there were 3 less due to deaths and 3 less due to moving away. To summarize, the total amount pledged increased from 2023 to 2024 by over \$20,000 to \$549,529 with 116 pledges. Further details are in the matrix below:

	# of Pledges	Amount	Percentage of the amount	Percentage of the pledge cards	Average Pledge
8	New	\$17,180	3%	7%	2148
47	Increase	\$299,659	55%	42%	6376
14	Decrease	\$74,360	14%	13%	5311
43	Same	\$154,400	28%	38%	3591
112		\$545,599	100%		4871

As in the past, the manifest spirituality and gratitude for the Grace of God continued to shine throughout the pledge drive and the parish community of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church has once again responded by generously sharing its treasure with the church to the glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Chamness, 2024 Stewardship Chair.

Treasures Report and Financials John Quene

This report is in three parts:

- Finance-Related Activity in 2023
- Church Financials for 2023
- The 2024 Approved Budget by the Vestry

Finance-Related Activity in 2023

1) We had a Diocesan Financial Audit this summer by having to submit our financial to the dioceses with answering a questionnaire and samples documentation regarding bills and receipt being processed. We passed the audit with no problems.

2) Fundraisers: We did have a yard sale and a smaller fundraiser than the previous year; we collected gross \$17,838.

Mercy& Social Justice wrote grants to a value of \$25,770 plus paid for Rise Against Hunger and Build for Unity and some minor smaller outreach activities for the value of \$15,048. We still had some money left over from last year’s fundraiser where we grossed above \$50,000 and did not spend it all in that year. In 2024 our fundraising pot is back to 0.

3) Our investment funds did well due to the stock market gaining value in 2023. Our funds gained a value of \$111,579. The total fund investments are currently at \$1,095,209.

Church Financials for the 2023 Year

The full “Statement of Activities” report is available in hard copy at the church office and the “Financial Position” report. There will be a few printed out at the annual meeting for those who already want to see them immediately.

In summary, it has been a good year financially.

Pledges was	\$586,058	Budget was \$524,737
Total Revenue was	\$763,631	Budget was \$698,696
Operational Expense was	\$826,408	Budget was \$748,642
Net school Reimbursement	\$66,817	Budget was \$50,500
Net Income after school reimbursement:	\$4,040	
Other Income/Expenses		
The Unrealized Investment Income was	\$111,579	
Depreciation of our buildings	-\$54,752	
Total net income	\$60,445	

Our current liquid assets are \$154,457 and our Fixed assets are \$1,095,209, these can be found on the “Financial Position” report.

Budget 2024

Our budget for 2024 is as follows:

Revenue

Pledge offering	\$555,000
Loose Offerings	\$ 78,700
Mercy & Social Justice	\$ 20,900
Fundraisers	\$ 33,000
Investment income	\$ 36,500

Revenue Total **\$728,012**

Expense

Salaries & related expenses	\$406,746	Includes a 4% COLA
Program & Outreach	\$ 91,948	
Mission Apportionment	\$114,472	
Buildings & Grounds	\$152,200	
Office Expenses	\$ 53,118	
Leadership expenses	\$ 5,500	

Expense **\$823,983**

Net Income b4 School Reimbursement **-\$ 95,971**

School Reimbursement	\$114,000
School Expenses	\$ 18,000
Income after School Reimbursement	\$ 29

Other income/Expenses not managed by the vestry

Unrealize income (stock Market)	\$30,000
Other expenses	\$ 1,800
Other income/Expenses	\$28,200

Net Income **\$28,229**

The Head of School's Report: Mary Heise St. Michael's Episcopal Day School

The value of connections is transforming, and we were whole again in 2022-23. Positivity and the sense of a bright future ahead spread throughout the campus that was brimming with activity once more. The most memorable theme of the 2022-23 school year was reconnecting with our students and families in a more meaningful and personal way. We were thrilled to participate in chapel, field trips, service-learning opportunities and celebrations. We looked forward to each and every occasion to reunite and revel in life on campus.

The community embraced every moment to reaffirm the commitment to the mission, the core values, and the legacy of excellence. As we approached 60 years of inspiring children to dream, learn, and grow, the focus of looking towards the future emerged. The Strategic Plan became the roadmap for refining goals and tremendous progress was made in addressing the major accreditation recommendations: mapping of curriculum scope and sequence, growing endowment and reserves, and developing creative and long-term solutions for expansion of the school's physical space.

As part of this effort, momentum emerged on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee to ensure we are resolute in the commitment to our core values as we foster a compassionate and inclusive community. It is our intention that our students will graduate with a deeper understanding of the complexities of the world, a profound sense of purpose and respect for all.

Very truly yours,

Mary D. Heise
Head of School

Music Ministry John Cozza

By 2023 we were pretty much past the uncertainties of the Covid years and ready to get back to business as usual. Things went quite smoothly in the spring, culminating in our Easter Vigil and Sunday services with brass soloists and Pentecost service with string quartet. After a rejuvenating summer break, we resumed after Labor Day, finishing the church year on Christ the King Sunday, again with brass soloists. Lessons and Carols was also very successful, with record attendance for our most popular neighborhood outreach musical event. Overall, we added eight new anthems in 2023 to our already large repertoire. Also giving a big boost to the choir was the addition of three "Choir Assistants": Kailey Diggs, soprano, Jonathan Saatman, tenor and McJefferson Agloro, bass. All three are current college students, as well as professional singers at the beginnings of their careers.

The purpose of the music ministry is to provide beautiful music, which will enhance the worship experience and glorify God by uplifting the hearts and minds of both the listeners and the participants, and to offer participants an opportunity to share their musical talents in a meaningful and fulfilling way.

I also want to thank the St. Michael's clergy and staff, all of whom have been, and continue to be, so supportive and encouraging of our music program.

If you are interested in joining St. Michael's Chancel Choir, feel free to contact John Cozza or any of our choir members, and they would be happy to talk with you. You do not have to be able to read music. The only requirement is that you are able to match pitches and that you bring a willing heart, an open mind, a desire to work hard, and a commitment to give your best. All sections are open for new members. Please join us in glorifying God through music and being part of the "family", which is the St. Michael's Chancel Choir.

Family and Youth **Pastor Katie Holeman**

What a busy and fast paced year 2023 was.

We hosted the first St. Michael's Summer Theater Day Camp. In collaboration with Mission Avenue Players, we hosted a two-week summer camp. The camp was open to the our neighbors and at the end of the camp, the campers delighted their parents and our members with a heartwarming performance of Annie Kids. In December we kicked off our fundraising for the next camp by hosting the concessions stand at the Winter Dance. Thank you to all who contributed. We will be looking for volunteers and donations as the camp gets closer. Theater Camp is open to all youth entering grades 1st-8th and the option for those 9th-12th to be volunteers. Thank you to all the dedicated people of the theater camp team who made this dream become a reality.

This coming summer, St. Michael's is partnering with Faith, Cameron Park and Trinity Cathedral to offer Vacation Bible School. The week will embrace Care of Creation by rotating practical skill set learning (such as cooking and gardening) in the context of care of creation. A thank you to Faith of Cameron Park as well as Trinity Cathedral for partnering in this work. The ages for this camp will be those who are 4 years of age through those entering 5th grade. Older children are welcome to be helpers.

Our nursery and Godly Play ministries, which were brought back in 2022, continue to be a success. The nursery is staffed by a rotation of talented and incredibly loving high schoolers from Saint Francis High School as well as Ponderosa. In 2023 we created a dedicated Godly Play space to allow expansion within this program. Our Godly Play students and Acolytes put on an amazing Christmas Eve Pageant wrapping up our 2023 year.

In 2024 we are looking for opportunities for St. Michael's to connect with our local community college as well as the community around us in new and engaging ways. Keep your eyes open for ways to be involved in this good work.

2023 was a great year and we are looking forward to even more engaging ministry in 2024.

Faithfully Submitted,
Pastor Katie

Adult Education **The Rev. Mary Claugus**

Thursday Morning Bible Study. We are a steady group who gather weekly to seek the Word of God to bring holy meaning into our lives. All are welcome to join us. Currently, we are using the lectionary for the following Sunday to determine the scripture study. Our classes are hybrid, in person and on zoom, making this study available to those who cannot gather in person. Thank

you Chris Chamness, Kate Muris, Laura Quene, and David Davidson for your leadership in this group.

Seasonal Classes. We continue to offer classes that reflect the seasons. Members participated in a Lent and Advent Living Compass Group organized by Lisa Sargent. Thank you Lisa! We have in person adult classes during Lent and Easter as well. Marilyn McEntyre most recently led our Advent class which was fantastic.

Sacred Circles. These Circles continue monthly with Kate Muris and Marilyn McEntyre leading the Circles. Thank you for your leadership. This group gives the participants an opportunity to sit in silent sacred time reflecting on a writing and prayer. An opportunity to share a reflection, if prompted by the Holy Spirit, is offered at the end.

St. Michael's Scholarship Report Laura Quené

Last year 2023, St. Michael's Church Scholarship Fund recipients were Elizabeth (Lizzy) Cybulski, Josh Lueders and Lyman Tadewald. Each student was awarded \$1,000.

Lizzy was able to accept her check right before heading to UC Santa Cruz, Josh received his by mail at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and Lyman visited St. Michael's Church in January 2024 from San Diego State University.

Education for Ministry (EfM) Ellen Cehand and Janice Bowdler, Co-Mentors

Education for Ministry is a four-year study and group reflection process for the formation of Christian ministry. The seminar group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings during the academic year. The materials are developed by the School of Theology of The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee and are comprised primarily of texts, interlude books and essays in the study of the Christian tradition. Year 1 students study the Old Testament, Year 2 the New Testament, Year 3 Church history and Year 4 Theology. Students commit to one year at a time. (There are no tests!)

This past year we met by Zoom and have begun meeting 4 times a year in person.

The St. Michael's group continues to be enthusiastic, spiritual and inspiring. Each week we discuss our assigned readings, engage in theological reflection, pray together and share our life and spiritual experiences. Current students beginning in September include: Tammy Murray and Martie Goodson-Scott (Year 4), Trey Hunter (Year 3), Andrea LaMattina (Year 2), Kate Muris and Ginger Wiseman (Year 1)

Co-Mentors are Ellen Cehand and Janice Bowdler.

Altar Guild Jan Bowdler & Laura Quené

St. Michael's Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary for the following regular services: Sundays, baptisms, weddings and memorials, as well as special services at Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter. Members of the Altar Guild are divided into four weekly crews. Each crew

member is asked to do set up from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. on the Saturday of her/his week and to serve at one of the services that Sunday.

Members of the Altar Guild are: **Dancy Dobrenick**, Jackie Linn, Patty Green, and Laura Quené. Sue Corbin, Sr. Tina Francesca, and Harriette Wharton. **Tammy Murray**, and Dianne Robbins and Eileen Thomas. **Janice Bowdler**, Mary Ellen Ferguson, and Ann Hall. Those in bold are the crew leaders. Additionally, flower masters are Connie Weichert, Virginia Henry, Allison Flower-Arledge, Dancy Dobrenick, Jackie Linn and Mary Ellen Ferguson who arrange flowers for our services and special events.

Special thanks go to Tammy Murray who orders and maintains our supplies, Sue Corbin who devotes many extra hours to memorial services, and to Allison Flower-Arledge for writing our thank you notes. Jan Bowdler attended staff meetings, facilitated communications, coordinated major events, and made major liturgical purchases until October and now Laura Quené has graciously taken on this role.

We continue to replace and replenish vestments, vessels and other liturgical supplies necessary for our services and are grateful for contributions that make this possible.

If Altar Guild is something that you think you would enjoy, please talk to one of us.

Lay Ministry **The Rev. Mary Claugus**

We are continuing to reemploy all our lay ministry opportunities. Lay Eucharistic Visitors are out sharing the bread of Christ to many members who still are unable to join us and who are homebound. We are now offering both the host (bread) and wine in the service. Thank you to our Eucharistic Ministers.

Usher Ministry **Jay Bowdler**

Mission:

The usher ministry is a committed and trained social group focused on the welfare & safety of the congregation who assure the flow of the liturgy. Rev. Mary (Oct. 17, 2018) summed it nicely; “Ushers are warm & caring in the belief that ushers take care of the congregation”. Aka “The Sheep Dog Society”.

Membership:

The ministry is still recovering from concerns related to COVID which resulting in smaller congregations and reduced service offerings. The ushers are scheduled (MSP – Thank you Mary Ellen!) to the 10 am service each Sunday. Ushers are organized into 4 weekly teams of 2 to 4 ushers, committing to one Sunday per month. There is a 3-usher team for the 5th Sunday when they occur and a small group of pool ushers who help staff extra services as they occur (Christmas and Easter). Pre COVID, 1 to 2 ushers work the 8 am Sunday service. 4 ushers work the 10 am Sunday service and other large services/events. A single person who does the altar guild needs and limited aspects of the usher ministry volunteers for the 5 pm service.

The continued impact of COVID limited the Sunday services to just 10 am this year, reducing the ushers needed to two due to congregation size. This has also limited the number of volunteers to the Ministry, making it a struggle to staff ushers during Christmas and Easter.

10 am Sunday Service Teams:

Team 1: Harriette Carr, Jack Carr, Ed Linn

Team 2: Jim Dodds (leader), Terry Bridges, Barbara McIntyre, Hunter McIntyre

Team 3: Rick Larkey (leader), Lennie Silva

Team 4: Jay Bowdler, (leader), Bill Wilson, Molly Hoever, Dianne Robbins

Team 5: Jay Bowdler, Bill Wilson, Molly Hoever

*New This Year

Pool

Tammy & Todd Murray, Chuck Schaller, Peter Luchini, Mike Johnson, Suzanne Phinney, Holly Yue, Dave & Dancy Dobrenick.

Membership notes:

The Pool Ushers are new folks who are learning and “old hands” who can fill in but don’t want to work a regular assigned slot.

Projects:

The usher ministry has been primarily focused on staffing issues; finding and training new ushers. I have continued coordinating with Michelle to keep the usher checklists relevant to the frequent changes associated with COVID waves and projecting a positive attitude with fellow ushers and greeters consistent with our mission. The ministry continues to sponsor the occasional coffee hour after the 10 am Sunday service. Thank you to the ushers for contributing!!! These projects will continue in 2024.

I continue spending time working with Mary Ellen maintaining the MSP usher teams.

Jay Bowdler - Head Usher, jaybowdler@comcast.net

Outreach Ministries Mercy & Social Justice Dancy Dobrenick

Mercy and Social Justice would like to thank our parishioners for their very generous support of our parish fundraisers and their volunteerism with many of our community partners. This is what allows us to expand our programs. We would also like to thank the Vestry for the closer communication we have had this year and the support they have given our programs.

As you may know, our mission is “To represent God’s love and compassion through acts of mercy and justice.” This is done by offering parishioners several ways to participate in supporting our programs. (1) Financially supporting the organization(s.) (2) Opportunities to take collections and offer “Gifts-in-Kind. (3) The option to serve WITH those in need. (4) Opportunities to SERVE those in need.

Our ongoing community partners and their parishioner contacts are:

- **River City Food Bank** – Dancy Dobrenick-where our members volunteer and whom we support through grants and Soup Pot

- **Habitat for Humanity** – Terry Bridges- through member participation in their Unity Build and for the first time this year Rock the Block
- **The Center at Saint Matthew's** supported through member liaisons, Easter and Thanksgiving Cards, as well as grants
- **Parkinson's Association-** Kay Griffin, Marcie Larkey- we provide space for their Sacramento/Carmichael Young Onset Parkinson's support group, grants for respite care and we are the only church to sponsor a table at the yearly Northern California conference they hold each year
- **Arden Arcade Carmichael Faith Community (AACFC)** -Julie Linderman- members participate the third Saturday of each month to run the Helping Hands Laundry, volunteers are always welcome
- **Starr King K-8** – Sue Davis- we provide with backpacks and school supplies each year
- **Carmichael HART** -Cindy Dewey- our members help to staff their winter respite program which provides a temporary warm shelter, a hot meal, sack lunch and a snack bag
- **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** – Christina Manning - which provides various services to refugees in our area and needs more volunteers. See Christina Manning for more information.

We also partner with Boy Scout Troop 802 and they have been generous in giving their time to help with fundraisers and **Rise Against Hunger**, the meal packing program that helps provide nutritious meals around the globe.

We have continued and expanded our **Parishioner Grant Program** and this year added three new grants our parishioners were involved in, **Blessings in a Backpack** to provide weekend food and snacks to selected Starr King K-8 students; **Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids** which provides warm handmade blankets for children from infants to 18 years old in hospitals and shelters; **American River Parkway Foundation** will provide some environmental education classes to students at Starr-King K-8. The remaining 11 grants were distributed to our ongoing community partners and recurring grant recipients including: **Women's Empowerment, The Center at St. Matthew's, St. John's Program for Real Change, International Rescue Committee, Golden Valley Quilt, Mission at St. Matthew's, Carmichael HART Winter Services "Winter Respite Days", River City Food Bank, PANC Exhibitor, PANC Respite Care, and Loaves & Fishes.**

We continue to focus on a wide range of populations including: Those suffering from food insecurity and those that are unsheltered; women and children escaping violent environments; youth, teachers, disabled adults, just to name a few. We want to continue to grow in our service to God, but we need your continued support and volunteer time to do that. God Bless.

Dancy Dobrenick, Chair Cindy Dewey, Secretary

Faithful MSJ Members: Terry Bridges, Harriette Carr, Rev. Mary Claugus, Sue Davis, Mary Ellen Ferguson, Sr. Tina Francesca, Marci Larkey, Julie Linderman, Renee Pierce, Laura Quene, Holly Yue, Dancy Dobrenick & Cindy Dewey

Gifts From The Heart Laura Quené

St. Michael's Church participated in the County program GFTH, for the 31st year! Once again, our generous congregation purchased, wrapped and brought their gifts to bring joy to the 121 recipients that the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services selected for us. 71 of these were children and teens, and 50 were seniors and dependent adults. More folks than ever were involved in 2023 and several got their children and grandchildren involved in the selection of gifts.

And once again, for the 6th year, Julie Bugatto and her family and a team of about 30 friends made and filled (to overflowing) personalized Christmas stockings for each of the recipients. It was truly a joy to lead this ministry that serves our community in such a tangible way.

Laura Quené and Holly Yue

Member Ministry & Hospitality Kate Muris & Renée Pierce

On Sunday, June 11, the Member Ministry hosted new people who came to St. Michael's over the previous year, to a Welcome Gathering at Bella Bru. Thirty people, including a few from our various ministries, enjoyed a light brunch while we had a chance to visit and get to know each other. It provided an opportunity for new members to share a bit about themselves, their church going experience, and what drew them to St. Michael's and keeps them here. Ministry representatives invited guests to explore the myriad opportunities for fellowship within the parish. It has been exciting to see many new folks join in a number of ministries over the past year!

Coffee Hour continues with the loving leadership of Gail and Bob McMichael and Dorothy Eddings. Parishioners generously fed us with after-church refreshments for the enjoyment of all. We are happy our new congregants are coming to partake in and participate as hosts.

Trunk or Treat was a delightful evening with lots of kids, dogs and a dinosaur or two. Hot dogs, chips and lemonade for 100 people were consumed under the leadership of Pastor Katie and Paula Frink. A grand time was had by all!

Faithfully Submitted,
Kate Muris and Renée Pierce

The Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast group is a small group of men that meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. The group is not restricted to members of St. Michael's and has no agenda or program. For more information about the location of the breakfast, contact Jim Dodds at (916) 505-8932. (Thank you Jim for your leadership). The men's group also helps organize, prepare and serve the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

Daughters of the King (D.O.K.)

E. Sue Corbin

Daughters of St. Michael's Chapter are praying faithfully for our clergy and those who are on our DOK prayer list and on our website. We continue to support our Outreach ministry by contributing to the Diaper Drive by donating backpacks, Kleenex tissues and sanitizing wipes to Starr King Elementary School. We also made a donation to the HART ministry at St. Matthew's.

During Lent, Pastor Katie presented "Entering the Passion of Jesus, A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week " and Sharon Gulliford reintroduced Renovare to the Church community. We celebrated our 31st anniversary and hosted coffee hour in November.

As customary, we continue to send the weekly Sundays' bulletins to our local and out of State parishioners and in December, Christmas cards were mailed to our housebound local and out of State Church members.

We are very sad to announce the passing of Kathy Lunger and Karen Calvert. Please pray for the Repose of their Souls.

Submitted by E. Sue Corbin

Pastoral Care

The Rev. Mary Claugus

In 2023 Pastoral Care continued to strive to meet the pastoral needs of our congregation. At St. Michael's, our lay pastoral ministers and clergy work together to help to meet the pastoral needs of this congregation on many levels.

Our Ministries currently include:

Pastoral Partners- This is a ministry of sending cards and making calls to help people stay connected with St. Michael's. **Sue Corbin** coordinator.

Meal Train- This ministry uses an online tool which allows for the organizing of meal delivery for members with a temporary need due to illness or injury. **David Daigh** coordinates this ministry which has helped parishioners this year in times of need. Please contact the office to request.

Community of Hope Pastoral Ministers- Trained pastoral ministers offer a caring presence for people who are going through difficult or lonely times. These ministers go through a 14 sessions Community of Hope training and meet quarterly as a group for ongoing support and learning. Our team currently has 9 members, who have helped many people stay connected and cared about, especially during this time of isolation.

Licensed Eucharistic Visitors are out and about again making visits to those who are homebound and would like to share the Eucharist.

Prayer Teams

The Rev. Rod Davis and The Rev. Mary Claugus

The Men's Prayer Team Offering Confidential Prayers: For more than 21 years men in the Parish, as well as a few who have relocated but retain a strong connection to us, have been praying confidentially for those needing prayer support. They serve on a team in doing so and currently 27 men serve in this ministry. Through email, Fr. Rod forwards to team members requests that he receives from members themselves as well as requests made directly or forwarded to him. Two lists are periodically updated. One list consists of people whose request will be honored for two weeks. A second list consists of people needing long-term support, such as a deployed member of the armed services, an expectant mother and her child, or someone suffering from a chronic illness. Team members hold names up to God in prayer. Most of the men say the names at convenient times during the day, e.g., during morning coffee, while stopped at a traffic light, during a walk or other daily exercise. This is a confidential ministry in that the names do not go onto the public parish prayer list unless they have requested it. The following men are currently serving in this ministry: Dave Abbott, Chris Chamness, Jim Cole, David Daigh, Rodney Davis, Doug Davy, Bill Fobes, Jay Glad, Hugh Griffin, Don Hall, James Hamill, Paul Hauck, Milton Hoever, Peter Luchini, Todd Murray, Hunter O'Hair, Paul Phinney, Tom Pinto, Jim Sargent, Chuck Schaller, Warner Seargeant, Mark Van Brussel, Jim Weichert, Mark Wiederanders, Rev. Mike Ferrito and Greg Dewey. In conjunction with this ministry, Fr. Rod forwards the names and photos of expectant mothers to the sisters and brothers of the Order of Julian of Norwich. This semi-enclosed monastic order of our Church prays for expectant moms and their babies each and every day during their noon chapel session. If you are a man and would like to participate in this ministry, please let Fr. Rod know.

The Parish Prayer Chain: There are currently 24 members offering this ministry. Any member of the Parish may add someone to the Prayer Chain, including family members and friends, by contacting the Parish Office. Rev. Mary oversees a "Member" Prayer List that is published each week in the Sunday Bulletin and prayed for during the Prayers of the People. This list is limited to members of our parish. This allows our congregation to pray for each other in a time of need. Thank you to all who participate in this important ministry. Many members and those for whom we pray have expressed their gratitude and have reported back the wonderful effects of our prayers. Prayer is a powerful thing!

Mission Avenue Players (MAP)

Kate Muris, David Daigh, Michael Walker & Paula Frink

The summer of 2023 was a breathtaking new summer period for MAP. Under the exceptional overall leadership of Pastor Katie Holeman, MAP facilitated, directed, taught, costumed, provided props, and created sets for our 1st Theatre Camp for Kids resulting in a fully staged *Annie Kids*. Approximately 35 kids had two weeks to learn a complete show under the talented and child centered direction of David Daigh, wonderfully costumed by the gifted production coordinator Michael Walker with Annie's dress and alterations provided by the accomplished Laura Quené and her wonderful crew of volunteers: Holly Yue, Esta Wiederanders and Sue Davis. Sets were created and painted by Michael Walker, Michael Johnson and Gloria Jones. Bel Air donated bags for backstage use by each child for their costumes. The kids even went through an audition process so that they could learn skills for other auditions. No child was left without a part, a script and a costume that fit. Participants came from the following schools: Saint Michael's Day School, Our

Lady of the Assumption, Saint Ignatius, Capital Christian, Mariemont, Arden Middle School, Thomas Kelly, Saint Francis High School and Ponderosa High School. Leaders, teachers and assistants were numerous: David Daigh, Michael Walker, Bill Simmons, Esta Wiederanders, Warner Sargeant, Connie Weichert, Dale Reinhard, Bob Reinhard, John Cozza, Kate Muris and Paula Frink. Jim Cole was our lighting technician. Sound expertise and equipment was outsourced with song timing throughout the performance provided to the sound staff by Paula Frink. The youth assistants, Makayla Holeman, Addison Holeman, Katie Walter, Elise Blomquist, Jackie Ingenito, Emma Nielsen and Sophia Nielsen were indispensable at break times for play, games, snacks and lunch and backstage for the performance. Speaking of snacks and lunch... the kids got fed. The extraordinary kitchen staff of Suzanne Phinney, Mary Ellen Ferguson, Sue Davis, Laura Quené, Cindy Dewey, Dancy Dobrenick, Dave Dobrenick, Linda Comeau and Marcie Larkey from St. Michael's congregation was at the ready with their lunch skills for feeding over 45 kids and staff. And now the performance... We had a packed/stuffed Johnstone Hall for the *Annie Kids* performance. Every chair that could be found was used with some standing room. My wish for those that read this is that they come to an understanding of how much work is involved and the countless hours by many people that it takes in preparation for a production like this.

A great offshoot of the summer camp, was the Children's Christmas Pageant, *A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant*. It was a truly successful and fun experience for all those at the 5 pm Family Service on Christmas Eve.

Once again, the Christmas tree in the parish hall was donated by Dave Jones' Christmas Tree Farm in honor of his late mother and longtime member of SMAG/MAP, Marilyn Jones. Thanks to Dave Jones. Also, many thanks to Kate Muris, Andy Chamness and Paula Frink for decorating the tree.

MAP continues to sponsor Winterdance, our 17th Annual Celtic Christmas Celebration. Thanks to Mark and Esta Wiederanders for bringing Winterdance to this community.

Paula Frink
MAP Secretary

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Carmichael Fall 2023 World Café Parish Discussion Results

Thank you very much, members of St. Michael's who participated in the World Café sessions, from the Vestry. You have contributed valuable ideas and input regarding the future of St. Michael's. Through the past two years the Vestry had often talked of renewing planning goals for our Parish, as it had been a few years since we set or adjusted our long-term goals. In the ever-changing world of a global pandemic, however, it seemed premature to set a stake in the ground, assess the present, and set goals for the future when so much was in flux. In June of 2023, as society began turning towards a new normal and after the government canceled the Public Health Emergency, the Vestry held a visioning and goal-setting retreat and proclaimed several broad goals to help steer the Parish on a path of continued success. The retreat left no time for the Vestry to assign specific and attainable objectives to the goals, however, and the Vestry determined that the ideas and experience of all Parish members would be crucial for crafting these objectives. Reverend Mary, Senior Warden Tammy Murray, and our Staff organized a series of World Café sessions to introduce the goals to the Parish and to receive input and ideas about objectives that could match them.

The sessions included two in-person meetings at St. Michael's and a third on-line via Zoom. At each one, attendees separated into small groups, or "tables" to consider the goals and offer ideas and observations, rotating the people at the tables after a given amount of time. Table hosts prompted the attendees with specific questions for each goal. As the next step, the Vestry will narrow this large set of diverse ideas into the list of objectives that best fit the goals and are the most feasible and achievable in a 3- to 5-year horizon. This is a summary of the results of these World Café meetings.

Goal 1: Member Ministry (Ministry to our existing members)—Optimize, increase, and evaluate opportunities to engage existing members to grow in God

What ministries resonate with you and keep you engaged?—Participants mentioned the liturgy, the weekly sermons, specialized ministries such as Centering Prayer, the Folsom Prison and Lay Eucharistic ministries; and activities such as coffee hour as ministries that resonate with them and keep them engaged. Some said that they feel welcome and safe in our community and that St. Michael's is like family to them.

What would you like to see?—Ideas included holding a "speed dating-style" ministry fair, football parties to make St. Michael's feel more relevant to the broader society, approaching the unhoused to find out what they need (tents, hygiene items, etc.) and providing it, a Taize-style service, community sing-alongs, and service to home-bound parishioners..

New ministry ideas—Participants suggested adding the Order of St. Luke International Healing Ministry and expanding healing ministry in general, spiritual gifts assessments and classes leading to invitations to ministry, renewed bereavement and pastoral care ministries, adding/re-creating a Renovare program with hybrid in-person and on-line meetings so that we can include young working people, game nights and potlucks for seniors with transportation provided, a hybrid Zoom/in-person book club, and teen and young adult courses in the fundamentals of Christianity.

Goal 2: Spiritual Formation—Offer spiritual opportunities that draw us into a relationship with Jesus no matter where we are in our spiritual journey

Are there spiritual practices that resonate with you?—World Café goers mentioned that our Staff does a great job with liturgy and music, and mentioned outreach (Loaves and Fishes, Rise Against Hunger, Habitat for Humanity), Lenten practices, community dinners, the labyrinth, prayer groups, Bible Study, Education for Ministry, and other Christian education activities as important for their spiritual formation.

What would you like to see/ideas for ministry?—Ideas offered included spiritual gifts classes and classes in spiritual direction and discernment, training for lay pastoral care, adding Stevens Ministry Adult retreat, book studies, an all-Parish book read, special speakers, bringing Centering Prayer back to the building, a Taizé-style service, young adult ministries.

Goal 3: Neighborhood and New Members—Attract, engage, and develop our neighbors to become new members to grow in God

How could we go about inviting our neighbors?—Parishioners responded that the summer theater camp for kids was a great example of effective outreach and should be continued and that it is good to see more development of the Godly Play program, a favorite with kids. Ideas regarding ministries to the neighborhood were many and varied. One person said "kill them with kindness, they know we are here." Others came up with suggestions such as starting a Mothers of Preschoolers group, offering child care, specifically inviting families from St. Michael's Day School and Starr King K-8 School, putting out flyers in the neighborhood and signage at major intersections, outdoor music, offering a Thanksgiving "feed the hungry event," senior pot lucks, game nights, tea dances and other musical events, holiday events, adding a QR

code and web site link to the banner, providing transportation to church and events, offering more service opportunities and publicizing them to the neighbors, and assigning a parishioner designated to shepherd a new member to welcome them and answer questions

What practice has worked for you to invite your neighbors to church?—Parishioners were familiar with churches that built a playground and welcomed neighborhood children to play (though this is not feasible for St. Michael’s) and held a barbecue for students of a nearby college. Trunk or Treat helps to familiarize near neighbors with us. In the past we have invited St. Michael’s Day School families to attend church and some have done so. Some have brought their friends to church. Simply asking people to come and driving them to church can be effective. One said we should invite people “whenever there is food” and provide childcare. This has worked in the past.

What attracted you to St. Michael’s and why have you stayed?—Several said that St. Michael’s congregation is friendly and welcoming and that is what attracted them. Some have attended St. Michael’s because close relatives were already here. There is a feeling that the parish is like a family and that is why people remain.

Goal 4: All are Welcome—Promote Diversity, Equity, and inclusion (DEI)

What value have you found in other communities that are DEI?—State government and some private employers have placed an emphasis in DEI through hiring and training and have found this creates a larger pool of people from which to select employees and a more satisfied workforce. Some members said that education programs we’ve held at St. Michael’s (including EfM and book discussion groups) have helped to gain a better understanding of DEI issues and solutions. We have to be flexible and welcoming to those who have different life experiences than we do. DEI is very important to young people today.

How could St. Michael’s promote these values?—Ideas for enhancing DEI through ministries included keeping the Zoom service, forming ecumenical bonds and partnerships and visiting other churches, participating in diverse community activities, and holding an open house for the community. One idea was to host a support group for young adults with Parkinson’s disease. Some said we should be conscious of the demographics in our neighborhood and we should love and serve them as our neighbors.

Goal 5: Children, Youth, and Young Adults—Offer opportunities for children, youth, and young adults to develop their spirituality, to grow in God

What are innovative ways to attract all three categories?—Participants responded that engaging people through events and service projects is a must. We could sponsor a service project or event about climate change. This is very important to young people. Virginia Theological Seminary has a public resource web site for Christian education that includes a wide variety of ideas. We should make a concerted effort to optimize web site items that could attract this group and generally enhance our visibility through technology. One person responded that young adults are leaving evangelical churches and that we could possibly host an “evangelical refuge group.” We should adopt the “Keep Church Weird” approach of author Rachel Held Evans and we should find some way to communicate with local college students at Sacramento State University and American River College. Additional ideas included a movie night for young adults, dances and/or music or sing-ins once per month. The relationship with the St. Michael’s School was cited as important. We should coordinate with School activities, and our Bishop should encourage more engagement between the Church and School communities. So many children and young adults have no experience with any religion. We could sponsor a field trip to various religious places (churches, synagogue mosque, temple).

What have you seen in other venues that has worked?—Parishioners responded that Godly

Play and Theater Camp have worked in drawing youth and young adults here at St. Michael's. We should continue these activities. Bible camps, children's Christmas plays, and a youth choir have been popular elsewhere and may be low-key ways to attract unchurched children and their parents, who are looking for safe places for their children to be and grow. This takes lots of staffing and preparation and we should train more lay leaders in this area. Holding pizza nights for young people of the Day School and neighborhood could possibly help to attract youth and young adults. Could St. Michael's become a meeting place or retreat center for the Young Life ministry or establish an effective parent group and youth committees?

Goal 6: Green Team—With the National Church and Diocese, move towards carbon neutrality by 2030

How could we reduce our carbon footprint while increasing energy efficiency?—ideas included installing “smart” thermostats and motion-activated lighting and converting from incandescent to LED lighting. We could also convert our gas-powered HVAC system to an electric heat-pump and change our landscaping so that it uses a drip irrigation system with water-wise and native plants that are well-adapted to our summer droughts. We could also offer educational programs to promote energy efficiency and conservation among parishioners. We could encourage reduced use of gasoline-powered vehicles by setting up a locker for safe bicycle storage. St. Michael's could also install a solar photovoltaic system to generate electrical power, as we have a good expanse of southern-facing roof.

What have you done personally to reduce your household carbon footprint?—Several people said they have changed from incandescent to LED lighting in their homes. Another reported changing from gas heat to electric heat pump and from gas oven/range to electric. A number of members have adopted hybrid or all-electric vehicles.

What have you done personally to increase sustainability (reuse, reuse, recycle)?—Parishioners by law are required to use recycle bins in most areas. Some have established backyard bins to compost organic waste for their own use. Some said they are changing to low-flow toilets and from sprinkler systems and lawns to drip irrigation and low water landscapes.

Goal 7: Expand Outreach Opportunities—Reaching out to those in need.

What outreach activities do you participate in currently at St. Michael's or on your own?—St. Michael's has done a good job with outreach since Reverend Mary has been here. Current activities cited included River City Food Bank, Helping Hands Laundry, Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity, Carmichael HART, and St. Matthew's Community dinners.

What's missing for you/ideas for expanding this ministry?—Participants suggested doing service projects in the neighborhood for older persons (weather proofing, planting trees, mowing lawns, cleaning garages, etc.). This could help to pull in and activate teenagers, model church-centered behavior, and demonstrate to the community what a church can do. We could organize trash pick-ups in local parks wearing tee-shirts with our name on them. Assisting people in navigating the healthcare system was also mentioned.



**Life is short
And we do not have too much time
To gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So be swift to love and make haste to be kind.
And may the Divine Mystery,
Who is beyond our ability to know, but Who made us, and Who
loves us, and Who travels the way with us,
Bless you and Keep you in Peace. Amen**

Adapted from Henri-Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)