

VOLUNTEERING AT CSMSG

Annual
Report
2023





THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

95TH ANNUAL MEETING
PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION
JANUARY 28, 2024

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

The Nomination of Vestry Members - The Rev. Andrew John Archie

Church School Children

Stewardship - Alexis Posnanski & Peter Smith

Faith In Action - Ezra Smith

Youth Ministry

Our Community Listens - Daniel Smith

The St. Michael School update - Peter Lang

Music by the Choir

Rector's Report - The Rev. Andrew John Archie

Rise up!

Election of New Vestry Members - The Rev. Andrew John Archie

Closing Hymn - CSMSG Choir

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,

Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,

Eternal Power, be our support,

Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,

Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Words: Alcuin (735-804)

JOIN US FOR CHILI AND SOUP IN THE GREAT HALL!

Hymn 525



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

For me this year has been perhaps the most extraordinary in my life. I have spent more than thirty- five years burying people, praying for the repose of their souls, and sitting alongside those who are mourning, and I have lost my father, my mother and my brother. Yet I was completely unprepared for my wife, Daisy, dying suddenly in her sleep. Her death was completely unexpected and it left all her family in shock and has taken all of us a long time to come to terms with the empty void she left.

As much as anything we were left with a profound sense of vulnerability. I kissed Daisy goodbye at Logan Airport in Boston and I never saw her again. Life is fragile. I was in shock. What could be said?

What were the first words God said? God said, "Let there be light."

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, ...a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was. And God saw that the light was good..."

We believe these verses originated in Israel's exile, amid hopelessness and despair engendered by the cataclysm of death, defeat, and exile.

In the beginning, all was night, a "formless void." And God's first creative word was addressed to that formless, bubbling chaos.

God just said, "Light!" And there was light, just by the command of God. Whenever creation emerges out of chaos, light in the gloom, or something out of the primal formless void, that's good, that's God.

What God spoke into being on that first day, keeps happening. Note: it's "when God began creating the heavens and the earth." Creation, according to the opening verb, is not finished. Creation is a work in progress. "If God should withdraw his powerful hand from the world, for even a moment, all would be lost," said Calvin. Every day, we are dependent on God to keep doing what God did in Genesis 1.

God takes the threatening formless void and fashions it into what we name as order, creation, life, peace, beauty. What God did, God does. Creation is in the future tense.

And what then? In the darkest days of their exile, isn't it amazing that Israel risked some of its most pushy, potent poetry like Genesis 1? Declaring in full-throated joy, "In the beginning, when there was nothing but the formless void, then God said, 'Let there be light!' And there was."



The first word the exiles heard God say to formless void was, "Light!" And there was, and it was good.

It is a word that we cannot say to ourselves. It's got to be spoken to us, overheard in God's conversation with the formless void. If there is not a God who delights at bringing light out of night, who likes nothing better than to go one-on-one with formless void, then we are quite frankly without hope.

The Good News, God's will for the world will not be stumped. God's love is stronger than death because that's the way God has set up the world.

In life and death and in life beyond death, there is only one word. At the end, it's the same word as at the beginning, that by God: The light shineth in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

And this year, that light has shone here at The Church of St. Michael & St. George in the warmth, the love, the generosity of this congregation and this team of dedicated professionals. Sometimes it's bright, white light; sometimes it's a flickering candlelight, but in every case there's a light shining here, and I have been sustained by that light. This year has often felt like a formless void, but the light has shown in that darkness. That light has shown from this place and from the people gathered here. For me, The Church of St. Michael & St. George has shown forth God's light and I have come to know it as not just a place where I might minister but a place where I have been ministered to. I am grateful for this Church, and grateful to God whose light shines here.

—The Rev. Andrew J. Archie

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN



I have been given the honor to be the Senior Warden of The Church of St. Michael & St. George. This honor gives me the rare privilege of providing this report.

Yet again this year, the clergy, staff and members of St. Michael & St. George have proven their willingness to live Christ into the World.

A gift to the vestry has been the Strategic Plan created in 2019 which has provided items to accomplish and implement over the past four years. This focus has caused the clergy staff and vestry to alter our worship, expand our outreach, increase our membership, and grow the number of participants at our Sunday services. All of this has been accomplished despite a pandemic, several deaths, and a cultural trend of declining commitment to traditional methods of worship. How has this been accomplished? It's been accomplished by excellent leadership focusing a congregation of amazing people to continue to "Live Christ into the World". Thank you!

As is the case every year, we face several challenges implementing our strategic plan. Here are two items to be the Vestry's focus this year:

1. The St. Michael School of Clayton

For several months, we have focused on improving the working relationship with our Church and the St. Michael School of Clayton. This relationship had atrophied over the past several years. However, with an engaged school board and a Vestry reaffirming its commitment to the school as a significant component of our mission, a leadership change was implemented and the work to restructure our relationship is underway.

Improving this relationship will allow the school to expand its focus on Christianity and provide a superior education underpinned with moral values our church strives to uphold. We are committed to not losing focus on this important mission.

2. The Music program of The Church of St. Michael & St. George.

When Rob Lehman left, we believed the gift he left behind for us was his assistant Nick Bideler. However, the lure of a career in aviation overtook Nick and he departed us for blue skies. While I understand the lure of aviation, Nick's departure was a disappointment. Fortunately, as my mother told me, when God closes one door he opens another. It's true. We have had two wonderful interim music directors since Nick's departure. Having these wonderful interims provided us the luxury of time necessary to implement an extensive search for our next music director. We have three incredible candidates and anticipate a new director to be in place by June. Whoever this person is we intend for the selected person to continue to uphold the incredible musical tradition that is an important component of our worship.

A second component of the music program which will be in focus this year our organ. We must finally deal with the compelling need to replace our organ. Every organist to have passed through our church since 2009, has told us that our organ was terminal. While I hate to admit it, our organ has entered hospice. Despite the best efforts of everyone to ignore this expensive problem, I believe we are going to have to address the issue. I say this because at no time has anyone suggested we abandon our music.

So, a priority for our new director of music will be to do the hard work necessary for designing and finding the money to pay for a new organ.

Finally, I feel compelled to address the death of our beloved Daisy Archie. Every member knows her death was tragic. We know the loss of this incredible wife, mother, devout Christian, and member of this congregation was devastating. The amazing support in both prayer and action this church has provided to our rector, his family and each other has been and continues to be quite frankly, the only response that could make this loss survivable.

Thank you for your commitment, prayers, works of charity generosity and faith. It is exactly the Christian community that helps me to better my Christian faith.

—Joe Sheehan



This is in essence an “abbreviated” annual report, since I came to the church in mid-August to begin a transitional year as your Interim Organist and Choirmaster. Most of you will not know that for me this is a “return” to The Church of St. Michael & St. George. In 1968 when I came to St. Louis from New York City, where I had been in graduate school, one of the first local musicians that I met in the first few weeks was Ed Wallace, the then Organist here at St. Michael and St. George. With our New York connections, we became friends and began several years of cooperation between the choir here and mine at Trinity Presbyterian Church in University City, where I was at that time. During those years we resided in the Central West End, and Patty and I were members of St. Michael and St. George, until I went to serve at St. Peter’s, Ladue, and it seemed better to move my membership to St. Peter’s, rather than belong to two Episcopal churches. Throughout all these years, I have been great friends with many of your clergy and with the musicians here, including knowing Nicholas Bideler, before he came to this church. So in a way, being here is rather like coming home!

Speaking of Nicholas Bideler, I want to extend my sincere thanks to him for maintaining and increasing the choral program here. This insured that the heritage of wonderful music here was maintained and made for an easy transition for me, when Nick decided to pursue a different vocational adventure. The church owes him a debt of gratitude for his work here.

The greatest thanks on my part is to the terrific choir here at St. Michael and St. George. As you have witnessed, they have continued the remarkably high level of choral offerings each Sunday, and especially on the festival days – St. Michael’s Day – All Saints Sunday – The Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols services – the many services on Christmas Eve and Day – and the Evensong services each month. This is a demanding schedule for any choir – both musically and in the personal time involved. The parish owes them an enormous “THANKS” for their talent and leadership, especially during a time of transition.

The search for a new Organist and Choirmaster is on schedule. Three extremely qualified candidates have been interviewed thus far, and the fourth and final candidate will be interviewed within two weeks. Following that interview, a candidate will be selected – offered the job – and take up that job at the beginning of the summer.

Much has been written about the state of the pipe organ. All of what you have read is true. Funnily and infuriatingly, the second Sunday I played, a stop knob on the organ flew out of the console, hit me in the chest, and fell down on the pedal board – while I was playing! I fixed it after the service and two weeks later it did it again – and I was so irritated I just left it under the pedal board! We definitely need the Antiphonal Organ to help with the hymns – so from time to time it will cipher (the note will not stop sounding) – and that will be part of the “experience” of church. We are doing the necessary “band-aid” repairs to keep it playing. We need a new instrument – but even if signing a contract for an organ would miraculously happen in the next year – organ builders have a one year waiting list, then it takes 2+ years to build an instrument and a 6 month time to install a new instrument. SO – the current instrument is going to have to serve for 3-5 years under the best of scenarios. That is where we are.

In closing, my gracious Thanks to the Rector, all the clergy and the staff of this amazing parish for making it a pleasure to work here and for their support. With all best wishes for the coming year,

–S. William Aitken



The St. Michael School of Clayton has undergone and survived major changes this year. Without the full support and guidance of the Rev. Andrew Archie, Senior Warden Joseph Sheehan, the vestry, school faculty, our respective boards, parents, and the community of The Church of St. Michael & St. George, the events of this year would have been insurmountable. As interim head of school, I would like to share my gratitude for their support and belief in our future. We must continue to forge our efforts to build unity, increase transparency, foster growing trust, and intertwine our resources to maintain the educational mission of the church and to build upon the successes of The St. Michael School of Clayton.

Throughout the bumpy road that the past several years has delivered, with COVID, basement sewer floods, and changes in the independent school economy, one thing has remained the same; the devotion of our faculty to bring an experiential and individualized curriculum to our students. Our track record of successful high school placement lives on. Our teachers work each day to create an experience for our families that meets students where they are while moving them forward on their educational journey.

We do have our challenges. In line with the mean of the industry, we have experienced substantial faculty turnover. Our search for a Spanish teacher continues to this day. Teachers who remain face a workload that is typically higher than industry averages, often teaching five periods over a six-period day. Factor in the time for homeroom, lunchroom, and recess duties and that leaves very little time for planning, preparation, and the sorely needed growth of professional development. Out-of-pocket expenditures for classroom supplies aren't unique to our institution and serve to illustrate teachers' dedication to having the resources that are needed to deliver a high caliber and personalized education. Small class sizes and our imbalance of girls/boys will continue to challenge our ability to attract students in our current market.

As noted in previous year's reports, enrollment has declined, this will stabilize as we work to identify the "Ideal TSMSOC student." The recent visit of the head search consultancy not only served to underline our need to solidify "Who we are" but also the realignment

of who we serve. While I am cautious to subscribe to or elicit any single philosophy, I believe that through planning, the counsel of our rebuilding team of church, school, and respective boards of trustees, we will see reborn energy and clarity in our work. This work includes realigning several key initiatives in curriculum, diversity, and student assessment. Examining the implementation of a science-based reading curriculum, mapping a scope and sequence for the vertical subjects of language arts, math, and science, and the introduction of a formative student assessment program are essential to our students' success. These initiatives are crucial with the intent of providing direct support for our students as they benchmark through grades K-8. Our specialists (music, studio arts, and physical education) will maintain their bellwether status at the forefront of independent school education in St. Louis.

Just this January, TSMSOC hired a director of admissions, Corinne Groark. This marks a dedication to the importance of realignment, finding that "Ideal" student population, and looking to growth in enrollment through a rebirth of our shared ideals, vision, and standards. We welcome Mrs. Groark's dedication, experience, and fresh energy to our team.

I'd like to recognize Lindsay Steuber and her leadership of the expanding infant-toddler program. Mrs. Steuber's addition to the team has created energy and excitement (as well as a wait list) in the I/T program. Now we must turn this success into a burgeoning elementary academic career for these current and future students of TSMSOC. To this end, we have added faculty capacity to cover midyear additions to our PreK classroom and anticipate next year's growth in the lower grades.

Over the past few years, I have made it my own personal goal to get to know church staff, its community members and to try to be a buffer in the often-widening chasm of our strained church/school relationship. My experience has served to illustrate the importance of working together on all levels to ensure that TSMSOC satisfies its mission under the auspices of church support. I am happy to announce that Jess Speropulous has recently restarted a youth ministry presence in our twice weekly student morning chapel meetings. We welcome her to the important charge of rebuilding our commitment to student spirituality and the growth of the whole student.

Together we move forward! The next few years will see progress, albeit slow and incremental, toward a unified and shared mission to bring a top notch and unique education to our community where an individual's strengths are exemplified, their identity is celebrated, and the seeds for the thinkers of tomorrow are sown. As the interim head of school, my focus this year is to learn from the past, surround myself with great people, lean on the support and knowledge of our tremendous realm of church and school, and to bring our school to a place where its values, beliefs, and successes are known and celebrated far and wide. I am proud to have your support and guidance.

– Peter Lang

VESTRY MEMBERS

The Rev. Andrew John Archie, *Rector*
Joseph Sheehan, *Senior Warden*
Frankie Eichenberger, *Junior Warden*
Rachel Hebisen
Christine Johnson
Barry Kirk, *Clerk*
Rachel Martens
David Ott, *Treasurer*
Mary Katherine Ray
Nancy Reynolds
Daniel Smith
Peter Smith
William Springer
Bill Wallace

NON-VESTRY POSITIONS

David Ott, *Treasurer*

TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT

The Rev. Andrew John Archie, *Rector*
Gayle Jackson
Joseph Sheehan
Kathleen R. Sherby
David Ott, *Treasurer (ex-officio)*

ENDOWMENT EXPANSION COMMITTEE

The Rev. Andrew John Archie,
Rector, (ex-officio)
Kenneth Bean
Laurie Brown
Spencer Burke
Becky Fouke
Jeannette Huey
Talbot MacCarthy
Jefferson Miller
Alexis Posnanski
John Rowe
Joseph Sheehan

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Harrison Hagan Heil
Peter Smith
Chad Templin
Jan Jacobi - Alternate
Bill Wallace - Alternate

CLERGY AND STAFF MEMBERS

The Rev. Andrew John Archie, *Rector*
The Rev. Peter James Speropulos, *Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson, *Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Stewart Douglas Clem, *Priest Associate, Theologian-in-Residence**
The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey, *Priest Associate**
Dr. Nicholas Frazier Bideler, *Organist and Choir Master*
S. William Aitken, *Interim Organist and Choir Master*
Sonya Woolley, *Business Manager*

Becky Arthur *Exec. Asst. to the Business Manager and Dir. of Stewardship*
Terry Arthur *Accountant**
Laurie Brown *Director of Parish Life*
Marty Chapman *Director of Parent Ministry**
Caroline Ferry *Youth Assistant**
Debbie Fenner *Volunteer Coordinator/Receptionist*
Theresa Griffin *Sexton*
Eileen Klamer *Communications Director*
Marlene Kleffner *Administrative Assistant to Rector*
James Leaks *Sexton*
Dayne Newberry *Coordinator for Family Ministries; Clergy Support*
Alexis Posnanski *Director of Stewardship and Giving*
Brett Rutledge *Childrens' Chapel Leader**
Jess Speropulos *Director of Youth Ministry**
Casandra Swanigan *Sexton**
Mary Beth Tipton *Director of Children's Ministry**

*Part-time staff**

GUILDS

Betsy Panke *Altar Guild Director*
Holly Brigham, Andrew Martin *Flower Guild*
James Stephenson *Head Usher*
Carl Eichenberger *Servers' Guild*
Mark Throdahl *St. Paul's Guild*

LITTLE SPROUTS NURSERY

Naomi Merrihue-Irving
Lindsay Cooper-Peters

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Marc Vorih
Sarah Smith





The following are reports from different areas of the Church community reflecting on this past year's activities and accomplishments.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Children's Ministry

Amazing volunteers make Children's Ministry happen! Every Sunday morning, I wake up knowing that dedicated Church School teachers and infant-toddler care providers will be at church sharing God's love with our children. The strong foundation of our children's programming remains a priority for us.

My warmest thanks to volunteers Molly Clem, Melissa Holman, Becca Jagger, Krista Jarvis, Patricia Litkowski, Kayla Martin, Claire Meyerkord, Ruth Rainey, Rachel Lamb, Rachel and Judah Hebisen, Alyssa McDonald, Lindsey Stokes, Jim Thompson, Rob Heuremann, Hadley Altvater and Griffin Posnanski, and our awesome infant-toddler care providers Naomi Merrihue, Lindsay Cooper, Sara Baxter and Karynna Whitehorn.

Sunday morning Church School begins at 9:00 AM. Little Sprouts Infant and Toddler Care is available for children ages 0-3 yrs. Pre-kindergarten through First Grade (ages 4-7) participate in Godly Play Sessions. Second/Third grades and Fourth/Fifth grades share a flexible Bible-themed Episcopal curriculum.

Children's Ministry of the Word (Children's Chapel) grows exponentially and is a favorite part of Sunday mornings, guided by our Chapel Leader Brett Rutledge. Our children know her as a nurturing educator, whose zest matches their energy. Our worship time during CMW is significantly enhanced through the music leadership of Mrs. Franklin assisted by Nikki Nguyen and Nicole Franklin. Delightful song selections and the

inclusion of glockenspiels and percussion instruments make this part of the morning the perfect opportunity to learn rhythm and beat.

Highlights from 2023

- Children sang at the Annual Meeting (Thanks to Mrs. Franklin!)
- Ash Wednesday Family Service and Maundy Thursday Service and Simple Supper
- Lenten Collection of School Supplies for Arthur R. Johnson Community Outreach
- Palm Sunday Donkey visit
- Parish Picnic with food, games and llama petting zoo
- Mini-Vacation Bible School
- Church School Open House and Guided Eucharist
- Expanded our collection of *Godly Play* Story Sets thanks to generous families
- St. Francis Blessing of Animals and Family activities
- Pre-Advent Family Movie Night & Advent Family Activities
- Advent Gift Collection for ECM Youth in Detention
- Our Elementary age children participated in service projects including a "buddy program" with our *Godly Play*-age children
- Observing St. Nicholas Day by making sandwiches for the clients of Father Dempsey Charities
- Gospel Pageant

But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God".

—Mary Beth Tipton, Director of Children's Ministry





The Youth Ministry

As the newly appointed Director of Youth Ministry at The Church of St. Michael & St. George, I am honored to reflect on the transformative journey we have undertaken over the past year. Thinking through the challenges and triumphs of 2023, the profound truth of Christmas continues to resonate – Emmanuel, God with us. In every laughter-filled gathering, in moments of shared vulnerability, and while serving our neighbors in both St. Louis and Niagara Falls during mission weeks, the presence of Jesus has been our constant companion. As we look back on the year that unfolded, we see a tapestry woven with threads of faith, fellowship, and growth. In the heartbeat of our youth ministry, God's presence is not merely a distant theological concept but a living reality that has shaped our community, fostering love, compassion, belonging, and hope. As one of our students reminded us during a fall youth group meeting, "Bro is always with you."

In 2023, we continued to work through the framework of *Belong, Grow, Serve, and Go*—the pillars of the youth ministry program at CSMSG. Weekly opportunities to belong in a safe and loving community, while growing in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, are offered on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM (6th and 7th-grade Sunday School and 8th-grade Confirmation), as well as youth group on Sunday nights from 6:30 – 8 PM. For high school students, we offer three different small group opportunities throughout the week. During high school small groups, students engage in in-depth Bible study and discussion with CSMSG staff and volunteers. I am constantly amazed at the enthusiasm and engagement our students bring to each of our weekly program opportunities. It is incredible to be a part of. Of course, these gatherings would not be possible without the gifts of time, energy, and patience given by our youth staff and volunteers. I am so grateful.

Since its inception, the youth program at CSMSG has been one focused on service. In Luke chapter 10, as Jesus teaches about the

parable of the Good Samaritan, we are reminded of our call to "Love our neighbors as ourselves." We live this call both in our own community of St. Louis through Middle School Mission Week and out in the broader world as our high school students travel to different parts of the country to serve on our high school mission trip.

During Middle School Mission Week, the students participated in various activities to help different organizations in the St. Louis area:

- **Beyond Housing:** The students worked with this organization to improve low-cost housing in underserved communities, performing maintenance tasks like pulling weeds and picking up trash, saving Beyond Housing thousands of dollars and benefiting residents.
- **St. Louis Area Food Bank:** The students packed produce bags containing figs, potatoes, onions, peppers, and oranges. In just two hours, they packed approximately 9,350 pounds (4.68 tons) of food, providing 7,633 meals to the hungry.
- **Lifewise STL:** The students learned about the organization's support services for individuals of all ages. They cleaned a 15-passenger van used for after-school programs, folded socks for the bodega, and cleaned a house used for temporary housing. Their hard work greatly benefited the organization and the people it serves.
- **Mary Ryder Home:** The students visited this facility, interacting with elderly residents who have serious mental illness. They spent time socializing, playing games, and creating crafts, experiencing the impact of their mission work firsthand.
- **CSMSG:** The students assembled various items to donate to local charities, including making sandwiches for Hunger Ministries, writing letters for Mary Ryder Home residents, creating dog toys for the Central Humane Society, and packaging essential clothing items for Lifewise STL.



- Additionally, the students enjoyed water games with the children from St. Michael School's summer camp, engaging in activities like kickball and water play.

During the high school mission trip to Niagara Falls, the missionaries engaged in various activities to support the local community:

- They learned about the economic disparities faced by the region, where many residents struggle with poverty and unemployment, contrasting with the thriving tourist areas.
- The group worked with different organizations and individuals in various locations, including the Salvation Army, Heart, Love, and Soul (soup kitchen), Center City Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, and Historic Holy Trinity. At these places, they cleaned yards, organized events, prepared for job and medical fairs, played with children, cleaned communal spaces, helped with cleanup, weeded, maintained grounds, and assisted residents with various tasks.
- They also participated in community events like Connect Niagara, where they sorted and boxed donated produce and participated in job fairs and health fairs.
- The group enjoyed visiting Whirlpool State Park, experiencing the beauty of Niagara Falls, and exploring the Cave of the Winds.
- Their actions were motivated by a sense of compassion and a desire to serve, reflecting the teachings of Jesus and aiming to make a positive impact on the lives of those they encountered.
- The missionaries developed friendships with local residents and children, creating meaningful connections in a short period.
- The mission trip allowed the students to witness the challenges faced by the community firsthand and reinforced the importance of serving others.

Their experiences will leave a lasting impression on the students, shaping them into compassionate and proactive individuals. Overall, the missionaries made a significant impact in Niagara Falls by addressing various needs of the community and actively participating in service-oriented activities – being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community of Niagara Falls.

As I reflect on the incredible journey of the past year, I also want to take a moment to mention this class of graduating seniors. These young individuals have been an integral part of our youth ministry, contributing their unique energy, spirit, and talents to the life of our community. This particular class holds a special place in my heart, because we started together in the youth ministry of CSMSG. They were in sixth grade in the fall of 2017 when Peter and I first came to CSMSG.

To our graduating seniors, my prayer is that you are taking with you the lessons of love, service, and faith that have been nurtured here. We believe in the bright futures that await each of you, and we carry the joy of having been a part of your journey.

And don't forget... "Bro is always with you."

–Jess Speropulos, Director of the Youth Ministry

Parent Ministry

The Parent Ministry exists to support parents, grandparents, godparents, teachers and all adults who love and nurture children. This is accomplished by partnering with parents and other interested adults in order to provide intentional programming and helpful resources in an encouraging, loving and intergenerational environment. This is when friendships, fellowships and spiritual growth occur. This ministry encourages all adults to share their faith with the next generation and to serve as spiritual mentors to all children and youth in our church community.

Various activities are planned throughout the year to encourage new friendships and interactions among parents, grandparents and other adults important to these families.

A new Centering Prayer Group has been formed which meets every Sunday morning for prayer! Another new offering was a two-day parenting seminar, *GROW: Cultivating Families that Flourish*, that was co-sponsored by our diocese and our church. Over the course of the past year, eight episodes of *Quick Tips with Marty* were recorded throughout the year related to various seasonal topics such as *Having Faith-Filled Conversations at Home*, *Lenten Ideas and Resources*, *Parenting Through Key Transitions*, *Navigating Hard Conversations* and more. Four book studies were offered on the books, *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*, *BAGS: Helping Your Kids Lighten the Load*, *The Path Between Us* and *Raising Amazing*. Last winter, the Sunday School class on *Living Inside the Lord's Prayer* was completed and this fall Abram Van Engen led the class entitled *Word Made Fresh: Scripture's Invitation to Poetry*. Our Parent Ministry consultant, Chris Sasser led a parenting seminar titled *Intentional Parenting: What Matters the Most*. Two courses offering study of Suzanne Stabile's *The Enneagram Journey Curriculum* were offered during the year. Multiple events offering fellowship, food and fun were held which included a winter Sunday social lunch for adults, outings to the Broadway on Tour production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Circus Flora*, a back-to-school family cookout and fall picnic and the annual Fall Festival sponsored jointly by our Children's, Youth and Parent Ministries.

Capping off the year was a wonderful evening of holiday floral arranging attended by thirty enthusiastic students and led by Andy Martin! It was a year FULL of FAITH IN ACTION!

– Marty Chapman, Director of Parent Ministry

PASTORAL CARE

The unchanging heart of pastoral care is prayer, prayer for those who have formally requested our prayers, and prayer for each member of our parish family.

We continue to visit the sick and the homebound, prepare couples for marriage, hear confessions, perform funerals and burials, prepare individuals for adult Baptism and Confirmation, perform house blessings, provide general spiritual counselling, and assist with vocational discernment of all kinds. Pastoral Care is still happening, with phone calls and home and hospital visits. The Pastoral Care of the members of the Church is shared by the Clergy along with those who serve as our Lay Eucharistic

Visitors, or volunteer with Community of Hope, Heavenly Meals, Parish Visitors, Knitting Ministry and the New Parent Group. Thank you for all who serve in these ministries and support the Clergy.

Community of Hope

The commissioning of nine new chaplains on December 10 added to the number serving in the Diocese of Missouri. Chaplains often serve as home visitors to the shut in or ill, visit hospice patients, prisoners, juveniles in detention, street people, and your neighbor. The chaplains are there whenever someone needs a listening ear and a non-judgmental voice.

The COH chaplains here at St. Michael & St. George are under the direction of Fr. Tom Albinson. As visitors to members of our parish, we aim to foster a sense of the larger community as well as a feeling

of belonging. Upon request, we bring the Eucharist to those we serve. Hours served by COH lay chaplains at CSMSG easily top 150 per month.

For more information, contact Sandra Vuitel at sandravuitel@gmail.com or Nancy Ferriss at naferriss@gmail.com

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

This dedicated group of men and women take the Blessed Sacrament from Sunday liturgies to those who, for a health reason, cannot be present at the public celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

We are blessed to have such a dedicated team of visitors at The Church of St. Michael & St. George. While it is a high priority for our Clergy to make hospital visits and provide the Sacraments to those who cannot come to Church due to an illness, it is also a joyous occasion when lay ministers can function in this capacity to bring a part of the community to the hospital room where two and three Christians can gather to create the sense of a parish family and remind each other of their Eucharistic fellowship.

For more information, please contact christy.fjames@att.net.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Liturgy

Worship is our witness to our neighborhood and indeed to the world. Many families who were unknown to us before the pandemic now call CSMSG their spiritual home.

Including Sunday and weekday services, we celebrate six regularly scheduled worship services week by week at CSMSG, and also at several local medical and retirement communities. In this way, we mark every day with prayer and participate in consecrating time itself to the Kingdom of God along with our extended community.

Betsy Panke served as the coordinator of our faithful Altar Guild and has increased the number of parishioners in the Guild.

Mark Throdahl has continued as head of the St. Paul's Guild of Lay Readers and Chalice Bearers, coordinating servers and readers for each of our Sunday services. This year has seen more and more parishioners added to the Saint Paul's Guild under Mark's leadership.

Carl Eichenberger, Nic Ayling, Catherine Salmon, Brian Thomson, and Chad Templin make up our Vergers' Guild. Andy Martin enriched our worship in the church and chapels through the work of the Flower Guild.

Bill Wallace, Ian Hagemann and Jacob Piwowarczyk run the streaming ministry with skill and liturgical sensibility.

Jim Stephenson continues to direct the Usher Ministry.

Our sextons, James Leaks and Theresa Griffin, were tireless and faithful in their care for our building and worship spaces.

For all of these individuals, all of these gifts, and everyone who continues to offer their time, talent, and treasure in the worship of Almighty God at CSMSG, we are filled with gratitude and pray God's continued blessings on their labor and their love.



Vergers' Guild

The Vergers' Guild is composed of adult parishioners who assist the Clergy during services, and train and supervise the servers. Their service and commitment to this ministry also contribute to the tradition of rich and reverent liturgy at CSMSG. For more information, contact Carl Eichenberger at 314.349.4724 or ceeichenberger@outlook.com.

Ushers

The ushers serve all the Sunday Morning Services as well as Special Services by warmly welcoming parishioners, handing out service leaflets, passing alms basins, and directing parishioners to Communion. They are there to help the various services run smoothly and efficiently. Each Ushering Team consists of men, women, and youth from the CSMSG Parish. For more information, contact Jim Stephenson at 314.603.0511 or jstephenson@craneagency.com.

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild ministry celebrates God's glory in the care of altar flowers and plants for Sunday worship as well as Christmas and Easter. We also tend the plants in the Cloister and Davis Courtyard. The Guild welcomes all parishioners to participate. Parishioners may donate flowers as a memorial or in thanksgiving. To donate Altar flowers, complete a Flower Donation form found in the Ellenwood or Wydown Narthexes or online at <http://www.csmsg.org/worship/sunday-flower-donations/>. For more information, contact Holly Brigham at hvbrigham@msn.com or Andy Martin at andy@arrangedbyandy.com.

Servers' Guild

The Servers' Guild is composed of youth from the sixth through twelfth grades who serve as acolytes at worship services. Their service and commitment to this ministry contribute to the tradition of superior liturgy at CSMSG. For more information, contact Carl Eichenberger at 314.349.4724 or ceeichenberger@outlook.com.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild supports the sacramental and liturgical life of our parish under the direction of the Rector. We maintain the sanctuary and its elements. We prepare the altars for all celebrations: the weekly services, Sunday and Private Baptisms, all funerals, and memorial services, and all weddings. We take care of the elements needed for Eucharist; the silver, the candles, and the linens throughout the year. We are 30 members strong, but always looking for new additions! Come join us and learn about the many seasons of the church and how we celebrate them. We invite you shadow one of our members and see if this is a good fit for you.

Please contact Betsy Panke if you want to learn more at betsy.Panke@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Guild and Chalice Bearers

Our ministry is composed of members of the parish who serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers. We read the Lesson and Epistle at Sunday services and serve chalice during communion.

All members of St. Michael's are welcome to join this diverse group of parishioners—some older, others younger; some experienced, others inexperienced.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Mark Throdahl at mthrodahl@orthopediatrics.com.

Christian Formation

Our Sunday morning schedule continues to allow us to include a Christian Formation Hour between the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Liturgies. There are many opportunities to grow in that hour: the Rector's Forum, 6th & 7th Grade Sunday school, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation, Adult Confirmation, Faithful Generations, Children's Sunday School & Godly Play, Racial Reconciliation: "Dear White Peacemakers," "Word Made Fresh: Scripture's Invitation to Poetry Through the Ages," and "Conversations Beyond Confirmation." Weekly Bible Studies for men and women and small groups for High Schoolers continued throughout the year.

Christian formation and education play crucial roles in the life of CSMSG, contributing to the spiritual growth, cohesion, and mission of this community. Join us in exploring the transformative experience of our Formational classes! As we step into the new year, here are a few compelling reasons for you participate:

1. Spiritual Growth:

- Christian formation provides you with opportunities to deepen your understanding of the Christian faith, fostering spiritual growth and maturity.
- Education in theological principles, biblical studies, and spiritual practices enables you to develop a more profound relationship with God.

2. Community Building:

- Formation programs create a sense of community within the parish as members come together to learn, discuss, and share their faith journeys.
- Small groups and classes provide platforms for meaningful relationships to form, promoting a supportive and interconnected community.

3. Equipping for Ministry:

- Education empowers you with the knowledge and skills needed to actively engage in various ministries within the church and the broader community.
- Well-informed and spiritually grounded individuals are better equipped to serve others and contribute effectively to the mission of the parish.

4. Discipleship:

- Christian formation emphasizes the call to discipleship, encouraging parishioners to live out their faith in their daily lives.
- Learning about the teachings of Jesus and Christian ethics inspires individuals to embody the principles of love, compassion, and justice.

5. Evangelism:

- Informed and inspired parishioners are more likely to share their faith with others, contributing to the growth of the church through evangelism.
- Christian education equips individuals to articulate and share their beliefs with confidence and authenticity.

6. Adaptation to Contemporary Challenges:

- Education helps parishioners navigate contemporary challenges by providing a solid foundation for addressing ethical, moral, and societal issues from a Christian perspective.
- Informed believers are better prepared to engage with the world and apply Christian principles to real-world situations.

– *The Rev. Peter Speropulos*

PARISH LIFE

Episcopal Church Women

Church Service League/Susan Mount Guild

CSL, the Church Service League, welcomes all women of the parish. Our year begins in September as each Tuesday starts with Bible Study, Eucharist, and lunch and a program. Programs consist of local area speakers, book reviews, birthday cards for parishioners, bagging and delivering cookies for the homebound (63 bags in 2023) and fun.

Fundraising activities include the Bookapalooza and Silent Auction. Proceeds from both fundraisers benefit in-house ministries and local non-profit organizations.

CSL also oversees the J. Francis Sant Memorial Fund supporting those seeking ministerial vocations. Applications are available January thru May. Several of the grant winners now serve in the diocese and we are very pleased to have helped them in their education.

For more info, contact Lynne Roney lynneroney@sbcglobal.net or Sandra Vuitel sandravuitel@gmail.com.



Showing Up!

Jesus calls us to show up to be a light in the darkness. And show up we have!

Our Sunday worship service attendance numbers are on the rise. We had 49 additions to our rolls in 2023, this is 19 more than we had in 2022. The additions include Baptism (12 more than last year), Confirmation or Letter of Transfer. The first baptism of the year was Tobias Albinson. The first wedding of the year was Andy Martin and Barry Kirk. Oh boy, did we show up for those events! Nothing like cake and champagne at the receptions to bring in a crowd! In February we brought back the Annual Pancake Supper. Sam Panke won the best of the Gumbo contest. Next up was our first ever Fish Fry, it was a smashing success for the ARJ community. In March, we held the first *Our Community Listens* class. We went on to hold three more in 2023. If you are interested in hearing about our OCL classes in 2024 contact Laurie at Laurie@csmmsg.org. In April we held our first annual “Tea” giving the church ladies a chance to wear their hats and the gents their ascots! Mark your calendars for this year’s “Tea” on Saturday, April 20. In May, we raised over \$40,000 for our Outreach Ministries at our second Annual Ministry Fundraiser. This year’s fundraiser will be held on May 19. The wine and spirit dinners available in the auction are incredible. We hope to see you all there! St. Michael’s Sunday was a bouncing good time thanks to the long lost bounce house for the kids and our beloved bag pipers. Jesus first showed up for us. At CSMSG we show up for Jesus!

—Laurie Brown

Listening with Love

The Church of St. Michael & St. George in partnership with Barry Wehmiller has made a commitment to work to heal a broken world through Christ, by fostering the lost skills of compassionate listening and responding, equipping people to lead with love. In March of 2023 we held the first *Our Community Listens* Class. We held three more classes in June, August and October and have another scheduled for March 2024. The three-day *Our Community Listens* course is designed to help participants learn how to listen effectively, express themselves clearly, and build better relationships. Why listen? Because Jesus says so: Mark 4:9. And Jesus said “Let anyone with ears to hear, hear!” Revelation 3:20. “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking: if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. As one participant said; “I’ve been to countless corporate sessions on teamwork and communication over 40 years and none were as practicable nor as genuine as OCL. Every organization can benefit from adopting the OCL structure of Feeling, Behavior, Impact, and its members will benefit from the process of learning how to master it. Contact Laurie at Laurie@csmmsg.org if you are interested in joining the March 8, 9 & 10 class.

—Laurie Brown

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

The establishment of the Volunteer Ministry was a response to the suggestions put forth by the Strategic Task Force. Under the leadership of Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Fenner, the “Many Hands” plan has been actively implemented, resulting in the formation of an expanding volunteer network. This network plays

a crucial role in supporting the church’s diverse needs, including production, grounds maintenance, building enhancement, and clerical and reception assistance.

Beyond its impact on the day-to-day operations of the church, volunteering offers numerous benefits to participants. It fosters a strong sense of community and fulfillment among volunteers, while also providing a cost-effective solution that contributes to saving valuable dollars in the budget.

We encourage you to contemplate the idea of volunteering and consider contributing to the vibrant life of the Church. Your involvement can make a meaningful difference.

—Debbie Fenner

Library and Archives

This year with “Many Hands,” the Sant Library was organized to reflect the Dewey Decimal System and the many rare and special editions it houses. Once cleaned and organized, maintaining this space for the book collections and the various meetings and gatherings became a pleasure. Sorting and purging the card catalogue will be the focus in the coming months. History provides identity. Over 115 years of historical documents provides The Church of St. Michael & St. George’s identity. Sorting, cataloging, implementing archival procedures and especially “cleaning up” the archive’s space, were all projects worked on through the year. A beautiful architectural rendering was restored and preserved by framing for the parish to learn from and enjoy. Over 400 tapes, 200 DVDs, 60 volumes of Dragon Tales and 120 archival boxes of documents were organized and shelved by topic. A busy year with fellowship and discovery as a benefit to everyone participating. Join in by contacting Peggy Strelinger at 314.229.1525.

The Garden Ministry

The Garden Ministry tends to the gardens, planting and pruning annuals and perennials from spring through fall. We focus our attention on the Ellenwood and Wydown entrances, the Page Garden columbarium, the Davis Courtyard and the Point Garden. Through the generosity of parishioners and the establishment of the Daisy Fund, CSMSG has hired a garden designer to update and direct the ministry’s efforts. The hope is to magnify the glory of God through floral abundance. We garden Thursdays, 8:30am to 10:30 AM, as weather permits. Come join us.

—Patience Schock

The Flower Ministry

Members of the Flower Guild coordinate flower arrangements and seasonal greens for the church. The flowers are selected based on the church’s liturgical calendar. They help the floral designer Andy Martin on Christmas, Easter and other holidays.

—Holly Brigham



FAITH IN ACTION MINISTRIES

The Outreach Ministries consisting of Education Equity, Episcopal City Mission, Hunger Ministry, Nicaragua Ministry, Racial Reconciliation, Shelter Ministry and St. Michael's Houses make up the Faith In Action Committee. The group meets monthly via Zoom, led by Nic Ayling and Fr. Tom Albinson. Below are their reports.

In 2023, the outreach ministries worked together and hosted the second outdoor fundraiser for all the ministries. Over \$40k was raised to support the work of all our outreach ministries.

Shelter Ministry

The CSMSG Shelter Ministry has been serving breakfasts at the Gateway 180 Homeless Shelter for almost 40 years. We serve more than 4,000 community breakfasts each year. Sunday morning breakfast is the highlight of the week for many of the shelter's residents as it may be the only full hot meal they receive all week. The Ministry with the help of others has invested in a full remodel of the kitchen at Gateway. For more information on how you can help support the remodel or volunteer at the Shelter contact Bill Wallace.

St. Michael's Houses

Led by Jim Stephenson with committee members Mac Moore and Lucas Gredell, St. Michael's Houses partners with a number of various organizations in the St. Louis community who are dedicated to working with and providing both shelter to and service related to housing needs to the many in need of help. In 2023 St. Michael's Houses responded two grant requests from *All Among Us*. *All Among Us* provides secure transformative housing and much needed support services to area women who are struggling to achieve and maintain stable housing. *All Among Us* impacts homelessness by establishing

healthy, reliable relationships and community. These many supportive and enriching relationships have positive impacts on the resident's lives and the lives of their families and friends. The result is providing opportunities for individuals with a desire to transition from generational poverty toward self-sufficiency. Executive Director Cathryn Shaw remains grateful for the commitment, continued support, and participation of St. Michaels Houses for their ongoing programs.

—Jim Stephenson

Ministry of Racial Reconciliation

Now in its third year, the Ministry of Racial Reconciliation offers formation and education opportunities within the congregation, and reconciling outreach beyond our walls.

In February, members of the ministry once again took part in the Diocesan Commission on Dismantling Racism's annual celebration of the Feast Day of Blessed Absalom Jones, ordained in 1802 as the first African-American priest in the Episcopal Church. As in years past, our own Harry Moppins formed and led a Gospel choir to enrich the liturgy held at Trinity, Central West End.

In March, the ministry joined with its outreach partner, ARJ Community Outreach, and hosted CSMSG's first annual Lenten Fish Fry to raise funds for the ARJ's baby showers for moms in need. In addition to giving their generous support, the CSMSG members who filled the Great Hall had a great time! Also in Lent, ministry co-chair Harry Moppins led a weekly Bible study, *Plenty Good Room*, built around the rich tradition of African-American spirituals.

In April, the ARJ Advisors group at CSMSG and other members of the ministry provided lunch and celebratory balloons for the ARJ's grand

opening at its new location on Cherokee Street. In concert with the Hunger Ministry, CSMSG volunteers assisted with the ARJ's monthly food giveaways, and supported the ARJ's Back-to-School Bash and Christmas Giveaway for families in need.

Back by popular demand, *The Legend Singers* returned to CSMSG in late May for a community concert sponsored by the MRR. Modeled on CSMSG's renown Choral Evensongs, the concert was followed by a reception in the Great Hall that brought parishioners, visitors, and performers into fellowship.

Rounding out the year, Rhonda Smith, John Tyler, and ministry co-chair Harrison Hagan Heil led a 14-week study of *Dear White Peacemakers* by Osheta Moore.

—Harrison Hagan Heil

Education Equity Ministry (EEM)

The Education Equity Mission (EEM) was started in 2021. The major issue we faced this year was matching EEM's goals and our volunteers' interests with the schools' requests.

We started by asking staff at Sumner High and Columbia Elementary School for suggestions for partnership activities. We also shared with them EEM members' interests: test preparation, school-community garden in the curriculum, language/reading skills. No school followed up on an EEM suggestion.

The Sumner Alumni Association was an important revenue source providing money for 120 batteries needed for students' devices, markers, Poster Boards, and 20 mice for computers.

Despite differences among our constituents, EEM members continued to engage in thoughtful conversations about achieving our goals. Members also actively participated in fund raising through the Gala, poinsettia sales, and personal donations to be able to meet requests from our partner schools.

—Judith Walker-Felix

World Service Mission Ministry

The World Service Mission Ministry marked its 24th year supporting various Christian ministries in Nicaragua. Although

the annual mission trip was not taken this year due to political uncertainty, financial support was provided on a quarterly basis to AMOS and to missionaries Ted and Kelly Rodgers. AMOS is a health ministry located on a compound that our team helped to build starting with our first mission trip in 2000. AMOS provides basic health care and teaches good hygiene practices in rural communities across Nicaragua. The Rodgers work at a shelter for abused children. Ted Rodgers participated in several of our mission trips which ignited in him a passion for Nicaragua. He and his family moved to Jinotepe, Nicaragua in 2013. Our ministry also funded a new vehicle for Ted in 2023. We continue our relationship with the Carolina de Sirker School. There have been difficulties in recent years providing financial aid to the school, but it is the hope that those difficulties will resolve this year. Thank you to all who have supported this ministry.

—Jennifer McGrath, Team Leader

Episcopal City Mission

ECM is blessed with faithful supporters who pray for our kids, host birthday celebrations at the detention centers, provide care bags. There are many other impactful volunteer opportunities!

—Tom Guignon

Hunger Ministry

The CSMSG Hunger Ministry provides for those in need of food in the St. Louis area.

On the third Saturday of each month at 9:30AM volunteers make sandwiches, fill lunch sacks and make casseroles in the Taylor Room. More volunteers are always welcome. During 2023, seventy-two casseroles were made for the Trinity Food Ministry and a total of 1,950 filled lunch sacks with sandwiches were assembled for Trinity Episcopal Food Ministry and Gateway 180. Four-hundred sandwiches were made for Trinity Lutheran Church in Souland.

—Alison Wiedle





STEWARDSHIP & GIVING

In every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude.

—Acts 24:3

It is with gratitude and joy that I share an update on The Church of St. Michael & St. George's stewardship journey and the incredible blessings bestowed upon us by our generous God.

Fundamentally, we acknowledge that God has infinitely blessed us with all the gifts of Creation, inspiring us to be generous stewards. Our lives, rooted in abundance, are a testament to God's generosity. As stewards, our commitment to the work of the church is strengthened by recognizing the abundance around us.

The motivations behind our contributions of time, talent, and money reflect the theology of our stewardship. In times of scarcity, fear-based initiatives arise, but in moments of abundance, even in uncertainty, our campaigns are filled with hope and possibility. It's a shift in perspective that transforms the ways we anticipate, request, and manage resources.

God, through His grace, calls us to be stewards, changing us and motivating us to serve. We express our thankfulness for His grace, faith, and love by faithfully receiving, managing, and sharing His benefits. Our unity as a congregation allows us to care for one another and be good stewards of our resources, an integral part of God's work here.

Your ongoing generosity, especially through the Alleluia Fund, has been instrumental in supporting crucial building projects. Our historic building, dear to us all, demands consistent maintenance, and your support ensures its future. I am pleased to share that we've completed various deferred and non-budgeted/urgent improvements in 2023. These include:

- Repair of irrigation and planting of grass seed
- New portable stage
- Guttering repairs over the Nave
- Carpet installed in Great Hall and wood polished and restored
- Completed application of a special polish to the wood in the Nave and St. Mary's Chapel
- Plaster repairs in the Tower and Andrew's office and purchased new dishwasher
- Lateral Sewer Repair under School Playground
- Fire Alarm Panel installed for building
- Camera system repaired and back on-line
- Window restoration and repairs
- Brick work following Clayton's sidewalk replacement
- School roof repairs
- CAT5 network cable upgrade
- LED lightbulb upgrade in church
- Re-stripping and restoring church tile
- St. Mary's ceiling plaster repair and painting
- Installation of a hallway TV monitor
- LED lightbulb upgrade in church
- Re-stripping and restoring church tile
- St. Mary's ceiling plaster repair and painting
- Installation of a hallway TV monitor
- Tuckpointing repairs
- Plumbing repairs
- HVAC Unit Replacements
- Wydown exterior stair repair (the school's main entrance)
- Landscaping projects for clergy residences & church grounds

Thank you for being part of this vital effort as we preserve our past and look to build and enhance our future.

Also, we extend our gratitude to the 327 households that pledged to our church in 2023, showcasing dedication and generosity amid economic volatility and inflation. Your commitment shares God's abundance with CSMSG, enabling us to move forward with renewed focus in 2024.

As we set our sights on increasing household pledges in 2024, as of January 17, we have 295 pledges committed, totaling more than \$1,773,310. Compared to the same time last year, this is an increase of twelve pledges and more than \$138,000. Your support has made great things possible, but to continue in greatness, we need your help. Every contribution makes a difference, and it is not too late to make a pledge. We strive to make it as easy as possible so please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you would like to pledge in 2024.

My abundant thanks to Peter Smith, who has given hours of his time serving as the 2024 *Together We Give* Stewardship Campaign Chair. If you remember, Peter kicked off the stewardship campaign in October with his offering plate challenge and thanks to your generosity and his willingness to match the funds, \$8,277.36 was added to the Stewardship 2024 Fund. Thank you, Peter, for kicking off the stewardship season with a fun and generous challenge and the laughs along the way. It has been a pleasure to work with Peter and thanks in advance for sharing a few words regarding your experience as the Stewardship Campaign Chair.

Remember that we do not obtain God's love by stewardship; rather, it is through offering a generous spirit that cultivates a giving spirit. We thank you for your continuous support, investment in CSMSG, and sharing God's bounty with the parish. With your prayers and blessings, we move forward with faith and gratitude.

May God's abundant blessings continue to be with us all. Thank you.

—Alexis Azar Posnanski

Director of Stewardship and Giving

Endowment Expansion

The Endowment Expansion Committee was founded in 2012 with the goal of expanding the Endowment Fund of The Church of St. Michael & St. George to \$25 million over the next 20 years. This fund is vital for the future of the Church as it will eliminate annual operating deficits, ensure timely implementation of our current Strategic Plan, and sustain the Church's mission during difficult economic times.

The St. George Society was created to recognize those individuals, families, and organizations who have made gifts or future commitments of \$5,000 or more to fund. The society, which is a keystone of our fund expansion strategy, now recognizes 192 members and membership continues to grow at a steady pace. When parishioners put a provision for the St. George Society in their will, it does not affect their everyday cash flow. Because of this, planned giving is accessible to anyone who creates a will, regardless of their current income. This parish gives thanks for those who have given from their earthly treasure to provide for the work of this parish beyond the span of their lives.

In 2023, one gift was made to the stained-glass fund, one gift was made to Sant Memorial Scholarship Fund, one bequest was made to the St. Michael's Preservation Fund, and nine gifts were made to the general purpose fund. If you have not already made a commitment to the Endowment Fund, the Endowment Expansion Committee hopes you will consider doing so in 2024.

I would like to thank Edgar Ellerman who graciously gave his time, energy, and counsel as the Chair of the Endowment Expansion Committee since 2018. During Edgar's tenure, more than twenty members were added to the St. George Society. A heart-felt thanks to Edgar for always being willing to meet with me to discuss ways to engage parishioners and increase membership to The St. George Society. You will be missed in that role, Ed!

—Alexis Azar Posnanski

Director of Stewardship and Giving

Annual Meeting comments given by Peter C. Smith, Chair of the 2024 Together We Give Stewardship Campaign on January 28, 2024

Alexis has done a wonderful job outlining both the spiritual and practical reasons for pledging. I'd like to add some strictly personal comments today. When Father Andrew and Alexis asked me to be the Chair of the 2024 effort, Together We Give, I had a fairly good idea of what to expect. I'd served on stewardship efforts at St. Michael & St. George in the past, and I understand it can be uncomfortable to be called and asked for money. If you are one of the people who didn't like taking my call, imagine yourself being on the other end of the line making the call. But here is why I'm committed to pledging and strongly encourage ---yes, even expect---others to pledge as well: I've spent forty years on my knees in this place, praying for God's mercy and guidance; my wife and I were married in this church; my two children were baptized here; my daughter was confirmed and married here; funerals for my grandmother, my father, my mother and my brother were all held here. How could I receive those sacraments yet be unwilling to provide the resources without which they would be impossible? To those who have pledged, I thank you with all my heart. If you have not yet chosen to pledge, please pause and remember the times you have come here, like me, and freely received these holy gifts. Thank you, and may God continue to bless each of us, and our church home.



THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

Total Active Membership - 1,561

ADDITIONS

By Baptism.....	28
By Confirmation	9
By Letter of Transfer	12
Total Additions	49

REMOVALS

By Death	20
By Letter of Transfer	7
Total Removals.....	27

SACRAMENTAL ACTS

Baptisms.....	28
Marriages	4
Burials.....	21
Confirmation.....	19
Total Sacramental Acts.....	72

Confirmation: Of the 19 confirmands included in Sacramental Acts this year, 9 were added to our membership and the others transitioned their status from baptized to confirmed members.

Deaths/Burials: Removal by Death accounts for members who have died regardless of whether burial took place through CSMSG.

Burials listed under Sacramental Acts include those done for both members and nonmembers. If a member dies in one calendar year but burial occurs in the next calendar year, each act will be recorded in its corresponding year.

CSMSG REGISTRAR REPORT FOR 2023

Baptisms

Tobias Roy Albinson
Joseph Randolph Alsworth Jr.
Alexandra Elisabeth Bynum
Abigail Clifton
Charlotte Anne Louise DeGraaf
Jack Powell Ellston
Andrew Harrison Freund
Lucas Alexander Gredell
Robert James Guignon
Louisa Kennedy Hartbeck
Judah Benjamin Hebisen II
Juniper Louise Hebisen
Eloise Danforth Ivie
Lillian Danforth Ivie
Charlotte McAlpin
Eleanor McAlpin
Keir Thomas Munyard
Henry Kent O'Neal
Robert Chatfield Panke
James Austin Ray
George Embree Rees
Donald Henry Sanders IV
Rylie Rae Sanders
Molly Larson Stonner
Adam Thomas Reynolds Watson
Benjamin Joseph Reynolds Watson
Tracy Reynolds Watson
Zachary Andrew Reynolds Watson

Confirmations

Temperance Aghamohammadi
Alexander Blair Cain
Ava Marie Cain
Lydia Fern Clem
Chloe Anne Coughlin
Margaret Rose Coughlin
Dorothy Mayes Durrill
Briannah Leigh McDonald
William Matthew Nietzsche
Patricia Ruth Parker
Isaac Easton Patterson
Riley Edith Poole
Owen Azar Posnanski
David William Riley
Audrey Rose Simanowitz
Isaiah Irenaeus Smith
Abram Christian Van Engen
Kristin Joy Van Engen
Tracy Marie Reynolds Watson

Deaths

Cynthia H. Allen
Margaretta Desmond Gallagher Archie
Ruth Bryant
Larry Gene Butterfield
Ann Luedinghaus Case
James Fullinwider
Kenneth Gould Greenlaw Jr.
Leo Groenweghe
Jane R. S. Luedde
Ethan Manske
Virginia Degelow McCann
William McNew
Kathleen Moenster
Joseph R. Niemann
Jean Patterson
Julia Price Scott
Timothy Van Gorder Smith
Gray Carroll Stribling, Jr.
Kenneth Fulbright Teasdale
Stephen Clarence Turley
Jackson Waterbury
Carol Davis Wells
Elizabeth Radtke Wolf

Marriages

Kristina Marie Freund and Travis Michael Cobb
Andrew Joseph Martin and Barry Alexander Kirk
Elizabeth Fay McDonald and Brian Coleman McDonald
Hannah Elise Rashet and Kevin Christopher Prazak



Daisy Archie
1960-2023

Daisy Archie – a woman of many roles – wife, wife of the Rector; mother, daughter, sister, friend to many. Throughout these roles, Daisy lived a life of compassion, unselfish love and faithfulness. She was loyal, reliable, true to her beliefs but also gracious, gentle and very kind. Despite being highly intelligent and accomplished with a law degree, she never felt the need to prove herself or to receive acclaim for her accomplishments. Rather she supported others especially her family, accepted a diversity of people in her life and was a good listener. In her role at the Church, she was willing to lend a hand and do the job behind the scenes – hosting appreciation dinners, helping with family events, filling in where needed—but never wanting the acclaim. She treasured the relationships with the people of St. Michaels and supported the Rector in his mission.

In all this, her humor and her wit were shared by many, especially Andrew and her children. She is missed.

—One of Daisy's Parish Friends

STEWARDSHIP & GIVING 2023

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Adaire
Mr. Tib Albach
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Albinson
The Rev. Thomas & Dr. Anna Albinson
Dr. Mark Alford & Dr. Mari Watanabe
Mrs. Charles Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Alsworth
Mr. & Mrs. A. Randall Alt
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Altvater
Ms. Beverly Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Anderson
Dr. & Mrs. Seth Anderson
Mr. John Ansehl
& Mr. Timothy Solberg
Dr. Craig & the Rev. Laurie Anzilotti
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Aplington
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Appleton
The Rev. Andrew & Mrs. Daisy Archie
Dr. Cynthia Armstrong
Mrs. Dale Arn
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Arne Arneson
Mr. Nicholas Ayling
Mrs. Ann Baker Babington
Mr. & Mrs. Roland C. Baer III
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Baldwin Jr.
Mrs. Mary Randolph Ballinger
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Barnett
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Barrett
Ms. Gretchen Barry
Ms. Janet Bast
Ms. Gloria Bauer
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bean
Dr. Walter Benoist
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Bickel
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From left to right, Daniel Smith, Peter Smith, Bill Wallace, Rachel Hebisen, Mary Katherine Ray, The Rev. Andrew Archie, Barry Kirk, Christine Johnson, Nancy Reynolds, David Ott, Will Springer, and Joe Sheehan

THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

Our Vision

The Church of St. Michael & St. George transforms lives through Christ.

Our Mission

Live Christ's life into the world through the Anglican traditions of worshiping God with reverence, joy, and awe; serving and caring for our community; and leading spiritual formation for all ages.

Our Habits

We celebrate the Anglican liturgy with excellent preaching and traditional music in a holy church setting.

CSMSG is a welcoming community and a family-friendly church, uniting lifelong Episcopalians with members from other backgrounds in the beauty of our liturgy and music and the excellence of our preaching and teaching.

We are a place for all sinners.

We strive to improve the spiritual lives of our members through worship, education, outreach, and evangelism.

We have a passionate membership serving God with our time, hearts, and money.

Our church is led by clergy dedicated to the parish and accountable to the apostolic faith.

Through our example, and with our clergy, we are committed to training the future leaders of the church.

Our parish and school are united to offer children the finest educational and spiritual growth opportunities.



THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

6345 Wydown Boulevard
P.O. Box 11887
St. Louis, MO 63105
www.csmg.org