

# MIKE'S MISSAL

May 2019

St. Michael's Episcopal Church 1601 W. Imhoff Rd.  
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Dear St. Michael's Family,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Thanks to everyone who helped make Holy Week and the Great Three Days so very beautiful. I've received a number of comments from various people, expressing gratitude for the joy and spiritual depth they perceived over the course of the week. "In all the years I've been a member here, this feels like the most peaceful and inviting Easter I can remember." (This from someone who's been at St. Michael's for over 20 years, and an Episcopalian for longer than that.)

Recently I was faced with a challenge: to simply stop what I was doing and wait. I was unable to proceed with a project until another person became available, and I was away from the office so I didn't have other work immediately available to fill the time. I just had to wait. At first I was annoyed by this—"Why can't they hurry up? Don't they know I've got things to do?" But then I realized that my eyes were looking through a window, drawn to a large cluster of deep purple irises blooming under a tree.

"Consider the lilies of the field, they do not spin or weave, yet God clothes them with such magnificence!" As I watched the wind blowing these flowers, against a gray spring sky, I felt my frustration and annoyance drop. I felt the Easter energy surround me again—joy, even in spite of deadlines and projects. Peace, even in the face of anxiety and fear. And Love, lavished on a patch of wild irises under a tree and upon

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each one of us. Not because we've earned it, or because we've impressed God with our good deeds—but simply because God who has created all things and called them good, good, SO GOOD; God who speaks over the chaos of life again and again to say "Let there be light!"; God who raises Jesus from the dead and raises us all along with him, is madly in love with us and will have it so.

In this season of old death and new life, there's a lot going on around us. And in us. Try to notice all of it—the struggles and the joys, the losses and the surprises. Don't be afraid. Remember that God is with you, in all of it. I wonder what you will discover?



## Children in Worship: A View From the Pew

by Melissa Gray

Y'all know me as the crazy lady with all the kids. You know, the one who sits in the front pew. I used to be you. I sat in the back.

It all starts early. For me, it started with my oldest child. You sit in the back when they are babies so you can slip out quickly when they start to fuss. Then, as they become toddlers, you stay in the back for much the same reason. You fret about noise and disrupting others if you have to leave for a potty break or to steal a cookie from the coffee bar to bribe them.

It's comforting to know that you're in a safe spot. No one can see your child doing a tango out of boredom. Or, even worse, hear you hissing "Just... be... QUIET!" so you can hear the last of the sermon.

I think it was when our son, Dan, was five or six years old that, out of frustration, I handed him my phone. I wanted to keep him busy so I could spit out my confession without pulling him back out from under the pew in front of us. It wasn't until I got home that I realized what a pivotal move that was.

While scanning through the pictures he took with my phone, I mentally slapped myself. Screen after screen of backsides and legs, and maybe a head. The pictures made me realize that they aren't misbehaving, they are bored out of their minds. They are shorter than everyone else, and, for an hour, all they can see, unless they can climb up, are big people body parts. All they hear are words mumbled in reply to what is going on in an unknown wonderland sixty yards away.

So we moved to the front.

When you move to the front row, you notice something. Perspective is everything when it

comes to our individual journey with God. I noticed changes in my kids, as well as in myself.

For starters, you no longer see what is behind you; only what is ahead of you. This allows you to focus on the moments that are important; the message that we are receiving through the sermon, the gifts of God that we give and receive through offerings and communion, and the celebration that surrounds us through song and prayer. And, wow, does it ever surround you when you are in the front row! You no longer have the distraction (or luxury) that both distance from the pulpit, and nearness to the exit, provides.

Secondly, you are no longer simply an observer in the celebration, or a partaker in the rituals. Setting in the front becomes an immersive experience. Your perspective lends to your becoming an active participant in the hour that we share together in service to God. And your children know this. Sure, you will be mortified the first time your child escapes the bonds of the pew, races to the alter or the pulpit, and, and innocently tries to share something, be it a hastily made drawing or real-life story, with the congregation. But that mortification turns to joy when the congregation shares in a moment of laughter, when the priest embraces your child, or when, after the service has ended, someone comments on how that moment made their day.

And you realize that you are part of a family. Not a selfish or judgmental family, but a family of loving and caring individuals. You are surrounded by people who love you and your children. By moving to the front, you have created moments and memories worth sharing, not just for yourself or your children, but for your entire church family.

Oh, and, because they know that the whole congregation can see them, kids are more well behaved! (Okay, maybe sometimes!)

So, my advice to anyone, especially anyone with young children, who sit in the "exit row": put aside your fear. You are part of something that is bigger than yourself. You and your kids have more to contribute to the service than you can possibly understand. I invite you to take a Sunday, sit with our family and check things out from a new perspective. What have you got to lose?

### **YOUTH GROUP FOR MAY:**

#### **May 5: Hunting for Rose Rocks, 2:30 - 5:30**

Meet at St. Michael's parking lot at 2:30 p.m. and we will carpool down to an area in Noble to dig/hunt for rose rocks on Rick Young's son's land. Wear closed toe sturdy shoes (no flip flops/sandals) and old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty (we will be in a cow field). All supplies provided. We will return to St. Mike's approximately 5:30 p.m. Please let Laura Blazek know if you will be going so we can plan for materials and car space.

#### **May 12: Mother's Day- No youth group**

#### **May 19: Game night in the youth room 6 – 8 p**

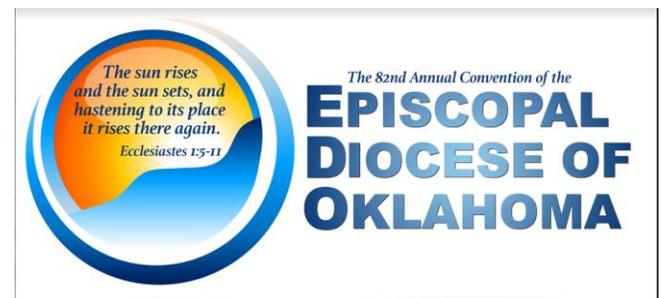
#### **May 25 (Saturday) – 26 (Sunday): Crystal digging at Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in NW Oklahoma**

We will meet at St. Michael's parking lot at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 25 and return Sunday, May 26 at approximately noon. Crystal digging will take place on Saturday, then we will camp overnight at the nearby Great Salt Plains State Park.

Food/tents/digging materials provided. Youth need to wear and bring close toed sturdy shoes (no flip flops/sandals) and clothes they don't mind getting dirty/salty. They will need a change of clothes for after digging crystals and for Sunday morning. They also need to bring a water bottle (must have), a large towel since we will rinse off after digging, sleeping bag, pillow,

flashlight, sunscreen, sunglasses and hats are highly recommended as it is easy to get sunburned on the salt plains, +/- swim suit and towel for lake swimming, and any medications that they will need to take (please notify Laura if sending medications with your child). They are welcome to bring cell phones or cameras, but the youth are responsible to make sure they aren't lost or damaged.

Laura Blazek needs to know who will be attending this event by Sunday, May 5 so that we can make arrangements for tents, cars, food. All youth must get a signed extended excursion permission slip and a current medical form to Laura Blazek to be able to go on this trip.



The 82<sup>nd</sup> annual Diocesan Convention for Oklahoma will be held October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Norman, OK at the National Center of Employee Development (NCED) on Highway 9 as well as St. Michael's Episcopal Church.

The theme this year is,

**“The sun rises and the sun sets, and hastening to its place it rises there again”**

and will be hosted by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Nelson Dent is serving as the co-chair for hosting this event and we are in need of volunteers. This will be a temporary assignment. If you are interested, please contact Nelson at [ndentus@gmail.com](mailto:ndentus@gmail.com). More information on the convention can be found at <https://www.epiok.org/diocesan-convention>

## CHURCHES CARING FOR CREATION



'We' are a group of churches working together to improve our planet home. Current local churches include University Lutheran, McFarlin United Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Christian and St. Thomas More. In support of Norman's recycling program for glass, cans, paper products and most plastics, we hope to expand the program to include recycling the dreaded and toxic STYROFOAM.

At one time, we collected our recyclables and delivered them to sorting stations around town. Then, Norman provided small (pre) sorting bins which were collected curbside. Now we have a convenient and efficient program of unified curbside pickup, transfer stations for sorting items, and distribution to various companies for re-manufacture. Our GOAL is to encourage expansion into recycling the last plastic, #6, STYROFOAM.

There is a DART facility in Ada, Oklahoma that welcomes our styrofoam material. LOOK at your grocery and take-home containers. Notice the recycle symbol with a number inside. Most plastics have a number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7. The number 6 is reserved for polystyrene. Please collect these items, clean them (as you would for City recycling), and bring them to church. We have provided a collection station for you, along with information and materials to help you with this project.

Let us participate as a COMMUNITY to demonstrate our desire and willingness to limit this toxic material in the landfill. If you have questions or are interested in furthering this project, please contact me: Tina Mahle, 405-701-0077, leave a message so I can call you back.

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

26 May at 2:30 in the library



Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING

St. Michael's is blessed to have a number of families with young children in our community. We are currently thinking about how best to honor these little ones, and help them and their families to be a central part of the life of the parish. On Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:45 to 10:30, we will have an informal gathering of the families in the InGathering Space to consider options and ideas. Please plan to be with us for coffee and conversation.

## SHARE A MEAL



## IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO GROW OLD FRIENDS

### WILD MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, 10 May at 7:00

### WICKED WOMEN

Wicked Women will meet on Friday, 24 May to accommodate the ECW Retreat. It starts at about 6:30 with the meal beginning at 7. Trish Frazier is providing the meal. Cost is \$10, but first time is free. Contact Amy Gardner with questions.

### WISE WOMEN LUNCHEON

Saturday, 25 May at 11:30

### SOAR

### *Singles Outreach and Resource* (but it's not just for singles)

St. Michael's SOAR (Singles Outreach and Resource) will meet for lunch on Sunday, 19 May, at Interurban Restaurant. Interurban is located at 1150 Ed Noble Pkwy. Guests, friends, family, neighbors and couples are always welcome to join in this lunch fellowship. For more information, please contact Paula Magarian, [paulanimals@yahoo.com](mailto:paulanimals@yahoo.com).

## Vestry Highlights April 28, 2019

- Visitor Presentation by Tina Mahle, inviting St. Michael's to participate in "Caring for Creation" community interfaith project, focusing on collecting and recycling Styrofoam. Vestry approved with an evaluation in six months.
- Vestry Exercise in Establishing Group Norms & Expectations
- March Minutes approved with slight amendments.
- March Financials approved as presented.
- Easter Attendance (Vigil and Day): 281. Five baptisms at the Great Vigil.
- Bishop's Visitation scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>. One Sunday service, 10:00 a.m. with brunch to follow. (See elsewhere in Missal for further details)
- St. Michael's Book Sale scheduled for June 21-23. Many, many books from Bishop and Mrs. Moody to be offered. See Sr. Warden Amy Gardner to help with this.
- Parish Workday scheduled for June 1, 8 a.m. to noon. See Jr. Warden Carolyn Demps for more information.
- Diocesan Convention October 31-November 2. Nelson Dent, committee chair, will be reaching out to invite St. Michael's members to help with the various roles needed in this process. Please contact him for additional information.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### As of 31 March 2019

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Receipts-Monthly	29,042.69	26,016.67
Expenditures Monthly	30,064.31	27,577.93
Net Income (+/-)	-1,021.62	-1,561.26
Receipts-year-to- Date	80,857.51	78,050.05
Expenditures-Year- to-Date	87,069.06	82,733.79
Net income (+/-) Year-to-Date	-6,211.55	-4,683.74

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

02	Vickie Blythe
02	Rosa Valdes
03	Bob Franklin
03	Thomas Tucker
04	Rick Burris
08	Lily Strout
09	Tim Phillips
09	Jennifer Hancock
10	Lynn Robertson
11	Anne Million
11	Amy McGovern
13	Carolyn Demps
19	Kathy Rodrigues
20	Tyson Fleming
21	Susie Cassidy
27	Phillip Berger

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

18	Rick and Carm Burris
18	Eric and Laura Blazek
26	John and Christi Madden
29	Ryan Tucker and Zada Sery
30	James and Martine Smith

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### EVERYBODY IS INVITED! (SERIOUSLY, EVERYBODY)

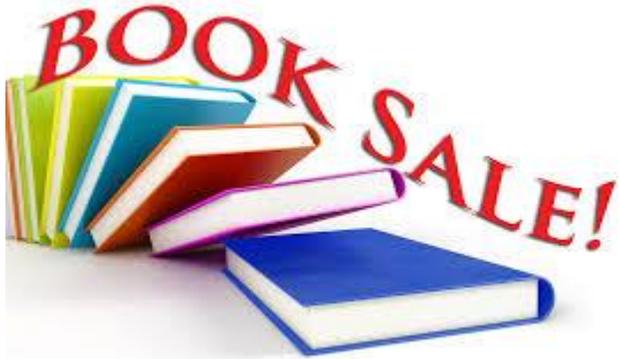
There will be an outdoor work day from 8-12 on Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>. Work will be done in the memorial garden, the area between the street and parking lot and hopefully there will be enough folks to clean the sanctuary windows as well. Please bring the tools you want to use. Thank you.

Carolyn Demps  
Jr. Warden

### Save The Date June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 A.M.

### Bishop's Visitation, Holy Baptism & Confirmation Parish Portrait, Brunch & Presentation of "Invite-Welcome-Connect"

June 2<sup>nd</sup> is going to be a big day at St. Michael's. Bishop Ed will be with us to baptize and confirm/receive new members of the Body of Christ, the Church. **We will have a single service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.**, followed immediately by the taking of a family portrait of all St. Michael's members present. After the photo session, we will enjoy a "partial potluck" brunch in the InGathering space (church will provide sandwich fixings and drinks; please bring a side dish or fruit or dessert to share.) At that time, we will learn about the "Invite-Welcome-Connect" initiative that St. Michael's is undertaking, in the company of many churches and dioceses around the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. Please mark your calendar (note the time change!) and plan to be with us for this wonderful day together!



The next Book Sale is scheduled for June 21-23. It will feature thousands of books from the collection of Bishop Robert and Lance Moody. Sign up sheets will be in the ingathering space soon! Contact Amy Gardner, 410-5523 or Sheila Ohl, 310-6246 for more information.



**Saturday, June 29**  
**8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The youth will hold a rummage sale as a fundraiser for youth group. **Beginning in June we will accept donations** of items for sale (unbroken, all pieces present, electronics working, etc.). Set up for the sale will be Friday night June 28. Questions can be answered by Deacon Laura Blazek or Melissa Gray.

## WHY AREN'T YOU USING CASH APP???

We have just rolled out the ability to donate to St. Michael's using **Square Cash App**

This App can be used with your phone or tablet. When downloading the app, you will enter the following name into the "TO" line:

**\$stmichaelsnorman**

If you use a debit card, the transaction is free to you and also for the church. Credit cards; however, will have a transaction fee of 3% on your end. These donations will automatically go into the Operating Bank Account. We will receive a notice of the transaction and you will be credited for that donation on your Giving Statement just like always. If you need help setting this up, please check with Suzanne Moore, Financial Secretary.

**Square Cash App**



**THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE  
EASIEST APP EVER!**



# MAY 2019

St. Michael's, Holidays in United States

May 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 12:30pm - SOAR 12:30pm - Vestry 2:30pm - Book	29	30 7pm - EfM	1 5:30pm - Contempla 6:30pm - Knitting 6:30pm - Lectio 7:30pm - Choir	2 10am - Bible Study 11am - Holy	3	4 9am - Piano recital
5 Cinco de Mayo 2pm - Piano Recital	6	7 12pm - OKC Clericus 7pm - EfM	8 5:30pm - Contempla 6:30pm - Knitting 6:30pm - Lectio 7:30pm - Choir	9 10am - Bible Study 11:30am - Finance	10 1:30pm - Food for 7pm - Wild Men's	11 10:30am - Food for
12 Mother's Day	13	14 Elections 7pm - EfM	15 5:30pm - Contempla 6:30pm - Knitting 6:30pm - Lectio 7:30pm - Choir	16 10am - Bible Study 11am - Holy	17-18 ECW Retreat 2pm - Witzke Party	
19 ECW Retreat 9:30am - Children's 12:30pm - SOAR 12:30pm - Vestry	20	21 7pm - EfM	22 6:30pm - Knitting 6:30pm - Lectio 7:30pm - Choir	23 10am - Bible Study	24 7pm - Wicked	25 11:30am - Wise
26 2:30pm - Book	27 Memorial Day	28 7pm - EfM	29 5:30pm - Contempla 6:30pm - Knitting 6:30pm - Lectio 7:30pm - Choir	30 10am - Bible Study 11am - Holy	31	1

For the most up to date calendar events log on to:

<http://www.stmichaelsnorman.org/calendar.html>