



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



St. Michael's Episcopal Church
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rector's Report	I
Senior Warden's Report	3
Junior Warden's Report	4
Sowing Seeds Capital Campaign	5
Treasurer's Report	8
Every Member Canvass (EMC)	10
St. Michael's Endowment Fund	11
Parish Communications	12
Parish Office Report	12
 Worship	 14
Acolytes	14
Altar Guild	14
Flower Guild	14
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	15
Lector Ministry	15
Ushering Ministry	15
Welcoming Ministry (Greeters)	16
Music Program	16
 Christian Formation	 17
Adult Formulation	17
Sunday School For All	18
 Outreach	 19
Outreach Committee – In Kinship with Our Neighbors	19
 Parish Life	 22
Arts & Faith Ministry: A Return to the Walls	22
Wednesday Lunch Bunch Book Group	24
Prime Time, Formerly XYZ	24
 Appendix: Financial Report Detailed Tables	 25

Rector's Report

"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:4-5

2022 was an intentional season of discernment. With hospitalizations and transmission rates mostly in the rear-view mirror, we began our journey towards the new "normal." After various incarnations of pandemic related separations, we settled back into a rhythm of worshipping together in person. With this came a period of adjustment. We had all been changed, and so, of course, the ways in which we gathered, related, and connected had also changed. Hybrid worship, communion in one kind, masks, coffee hour on the lawn – all of it an effort to reclaim our incarnational theology, in ways that felt reasonably safe. At the core of it was our intention to be formed as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Vestry book for study was, The Rev. Canon Stephanie Speller's, "The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community." Written in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the call for racial reckoning in 2020, Canon Spellers provides a theologically grounded, practical analysis of this moment in time, "Disruption and decline are not the end of any story with God. In our case, they may be the doorway into joining God's community of love" (p. 24). Grounded in theological reflections of the alabaster jar cracked open by the woman who anointed Jesus, we thoughtfully wondered about the gift and beauty to be found in the cracks we had all experienced to our routines, our security, and our expectations. Intentionally naming these realities helped to redirect our energy towards Becoming Beloved Community.

A major initiative of the Vestry was a capital campaign, which was launched to pay for expenses incurred in 2021, but also as a strategic investment in our physical spaces as a means for facilitating and launching ministries. Parishioners responded with astounding generosity, nearly doubling the initial financial goal, establishing seed funding for future expenses. In addition to the monetary success, the goals set for parish engagement were also met. This reflects the community's commitment to continued viability. Every step of the way we are seeking to become a more reliable partner for community members, and actively build God's Kingdom.

Simultaneously, a great deal of attention was spent getting our internal affairs in order. Several natural transitions in leadership meant that the beginning of 2022 brought with it a new Parish Administrator, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, and accounting firm. I remain grateful for the faithful service of our lay leaders who made sure these transitions happened well. We excitedly welcomed Katrina Moore as our new Parish Administrator, which meant that Wil Harkins fully retired from this role. The parish held a grand celebration in thanksgiving for Wil's leadership, generosity, and presence over the last seven years. All of the energy spent keeping things orderly behind the scenes means that we are able to competently serve parishioners, and capably engage with the greater Arlington community.

The Stewardship Committee created and led a campaign that thoughtfully navigated uncertain times and a volatile financial market. With the inspired leadership of Dan Ruff, and thoughtful presence of Linda Denson, Tad McCall, and Kaipo McCartney, we are poised to continue navigating closer to our desired financial future.

That was just what took place behind the scenes! In the meantime, after a brief period of online worship at the beginning of the year, we eased our way back to gathering in person. The Vestry chose to continue with our practice of wearing masks in worship, in hopes that we would safely endure new strains of COVID, and create a space that felt welcoming for as many parishioners as possible. For all but worship, mask-wearing became optional. Mercifully, we were able to continue with in person worship for the remainder of 2022. Virtual worship remained available throughout the year. Hybrid meeting spaces took shape throughout the building, and will remain in place, offering maximum flexibility moving forward.

The formation of a Hospitality Committee provided much needed leadership as we began to regather on Sunday mornings, and for seasonal celebrations. These individuals provided vision, organization, and thoughtful rightsizing of events for this stage of the endemic. In addition to the parish picnic, we added a Back-to-School celebration to our annual gatherings, which was very well received. The leadership these individuals provide continues to make an impact at weekly coffee hours, annual events, and the general spirit of hospitality that infuses all St. Michael's gatherings.

The work of Outreach remained grounded in the Biblical principal of kinship with our neighbors. You can read in more detail about the work the committee accomplished later in this report. Of note, was the expressed desire to actively engage the congregation in new opportunities. Discipleship Sunday launched the program year with an invitation for all parishioners to get to know our partner organizations, as well as the ways in which we engage in relationship with these organizations as a community. As a result, we have seen active engagement from individuals new to the parish, in addition to those who had not been previously involved. I am profoundly grateful for the work of the committee, and the shepherds of each organization, who led us deeper into the commitment to share all that we have beyond these four walls.

In a later section of the report, you can read about the many ways in which our formation as disciples of Jesus remained at the core of our work together. A highlight is our continued work towards racial reconciliation.

Our superb staff made a potentially challenging year unfold smoothly and with tremendous ease, thanks to their commitment. I would go anywhere with them, confident in their ability not only to get the job done, but to be the most thoughtful of companions along the way. Wil Harkins, Katrina Moore, Noel Warford, and Lucy Jiminez are to be commended for their brilliant work. We have had the pleasure of enjoying seminarian Hayden Paul's leadership since June, and are thankful for his deep commitment and dynamic engagement. Caroline Haynes completed four superb years on Vestry, leading us through a successful capital campaign and major renovations. Tom Halvorson has been a reliable and wise companion as junior warden,

and the gift of Vicki Barnett to the wardens team has been extraordinary. I am deeply thankful for our entire Vestry, and offer a particular gratitude for our retiring members Caroline Haynes, Adrienne Pilot, and Tom Halvorson. Their leadership was essential in navigating our way closer to God's Kingdom.

As we continue to endure the realities of this endemic, St. Michael's has been a beacon of hope and resilience. Indeed, we have opened the door to become beloved community, in the many and beautiful ways God has called us.

Blessings,

The Very Reverend Beth Franklin, Rector

Senior Warden's Report

I stepped into the senior warden role last summer after Caroline Haynes stepped down, after an extended and very intensive stint as senior warden, during which she not only oversaw a number of renovation and repair projects but led the capital campaign to help cover those costs. The learning curve has been steep, but made much easier by the willingness of Caroline, Tom, Beth, Janet, Katrina, and others to fill in the gaps in my knowledge!

In the vestry it has been both exciting and challenging to think about the coming year. There have been three regular themes in our conversations: prayerful reflection on who we want to be as a faithful community, appreciation for the remarkable engagement and resilience of everyone at St. Michael's community as we have faced the past few years—and recognition of the daunting reality that we're not out of the woods yet. We're still somewhere along the post-pandemic road, and there are many unknowns and uncertainties. We see signs of hope: more and more people are coming back to worship and St. Michael's members are as ever amazingly generous with their time and financial support. But there are difficult adjustments as we experiment with new models for fellowship and wrestle with the financial realities of a small congregation.

Some highlights of the past year have been

- The ongoing partnership with Lomax and the deepening engagement of so many from St. Michael's in the Sacred Ground conversations and related conversations
- The many circles/communities reached by St. Michael's, from the annual blood drive to the Arlington ministries that we support financially and through volunteer work
- The numerous ways in which our community is coming back to life and coming together—in worship, in the hospitality gatherings, in groups that meet regularly to sustain our community, like the choir, altar guild, and book groups. We're already getting used to this, so it's easy to overlook the significance of people regathering—but when I think of where we were two years ago, it really is a sign of grace.

I think of a sermon preached by Pastor Nelson last May, after the terrible shootings in Buffalo last spring. I was moved to watch Lomax's online service and the scriptural reading that day was the Revelation 21:1 passage about the vision of a "new heaven and new earth." Pastor Nelson preached about "what it means to live in the in-between," when a hopeful vision seems very far away indeed. Especially in moments of tragedy and violence, talk of a "new heaven and new earth" is a depressing reminder that we're not there yet. But Nelson emphasized that this passage really means that we should live with our eyes directed toward God's promise of the new heaven and new earth, not just as something that is out there on the horizon, but as the way we are supposed to live right now.

That's what I've experienced this past year at St. Michael's: constant reminders of God's grace and presence in a period that definitely still feels "in-between" in many ways. I am very grateful for Beth's leadership and to be a member of a church community that takes seriously the vision of living in God's promise.

Junior Warden's Report

The parish ended 2022 on a positive note with the largest in person gatherings since before the pandemic start and a new worship routine centered on a single 0930AM service on Sundays. We are expecting that to continue in 2023 with a new normal use of the parish facilities, mostly in person events, fewer meetings on zoom and new third-party use of the building:

- The establishment of a single worship service commenced in February and this has simplified the work load for everyone from the choir to the altar guild. We have also continued to use the outdoor service at the opportune moments during the spring and fall to leverage that cheerful back-up parish hall we enjoyed early in COVID.
- We continued the support for an online broadcast to our virtual worshipers using the equipment invested in during 2021.
- We remain cautious with COVID and are continuing to mask for services. It has proven wise with several late year high transmission periods of the virus in the local community.

Mowing Ministry: The mowing ministry continues for a fourth year. Many thanks to Dan Plafcan, Alan Eickelberg, Dan and Adam Ruff and Rick Hightower. We invested in a new electric mower and will continue the Mowing Ministry for a fourth year in 2023. New volunteers are always welcome!

Fall Work Days: Another very successful effort this past Fall. We had a particularly leaf heavy year with a large street offering for the Arlington collection teams. Many parishioners of all ages led the work party and as usual thanks to Caroline Hayes for generating the momentum that made it so successful.

Planning for Columbarium Expansion: John Kelleher initiated work to design and seek a contractor able to support fabrication of the materials for this project. Expect that we will finalize the plan in 2023 and hopefully commence work over the next year.

Capital Campaign: Would simply add to what has been said before – the parish generosity is truly amazing and we are fortunate to enter 2023 with so much work behind us and the financial footing to continue to sustain our facilities and plan for the future.

It has been a pleasure working with our leadership team at St Michael's the past two years. I have come to fully appreciate the energy of our Rector Beth Franklin, our superb Senior Wardens Caroline Haynes and Vicki Barnett, the Vestry itself, our Treasurer Janet Hansen, the Financial Committee and our talented new Parish Administrator Katrina Moore. We are truly blessed for their efforts and I continue to be amazed at the contributions by everyone in St. Michael's community.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Halvorson, Junior Warden

Sowing Seeds Capital Campaign

Background on Major Maintenance timeline:

1996 Master Facilities Plan for Capital Improvements

- Provided a thorough and detailed analysis of anticipated major maintenance needs. The plan recommended that \$18,000 per year be included in annual budget and transferred to the Major Maintenance Fund. (Equivalent of \$32,776 in 2022 dollars.)
- The annual contribution of \$18,000 per year was a “catch up” to fund anticipated needed capital projects; this budget transfer was to be reduced gradually to approximately \$10,000 per year, once resources had built up in the Major Maintenance Fund.
- Contributions to the Major Maintenance Fund were made for a just a few years, before more immediate short term needs arose, and the plan became more aspirational, and eventually abandoned.

2020: Vestry updated spread sheet based on 1996 work

- Notes variation in longevity of some facilities (some last much longer than anticipated; others need replacing long before their supposed useful life)
- Recognition that long-term planning is often sacrificed for short term needs
- Vestry recommended aspirational goal of \$25,000 per year from Mission Spend Plan toward Major Maintenance Fund

2020-2021: Approx. \$308,000 of urgent repairs and renovations

- Fortunate that we were able to draw on funds from a variety of sources (endowment, diocesan loan, other designated funds, gifts, etc.), since we had very little to draw from the Major Maintenance Fund
- Vestry is interested in using this opportunity to again try to take a longer view, and develop a plan to be able to anticipate and fund longer major maintenance needs.
- Going forward want to ensure that we have the ability to anticipate and respond again quickly to future needs.

2021-2022 Sowing Seeds Capital Campaign

- Objectives:
 - » Complete remaining near term projects
 - » Plan for longer term major maintenance expenses
 - » Pay down the loan
 - » Begin to replenish endowment fund
 - » Contingency fund to enable possible future additional uses of building
- Extremely grateful for generous contributions of \$105,000 in 2021 (quiet phase), and approximately \$111,888 in 2022, for total of \$216,888
- Participation of 51 individuals and families, or about 70% (of the 73 individuals and families that pledged in 2022)
- \$66,361 remaining in capital campaign fund to be allocated across remaining objectives

Diocesan Loan

- \$100,000 loan from Diocese of VA terms: 3.75%, amortized over 25 years, with balloon payment and reset at end of five years on loan balance
- Required minimum payment of \$531 per month (resulting in interest payments of over \$35,000 over the 25 years of the loan)
- MSP anticipates early payback of principle of about \$10,000 per year (total allocated in 2022 MSP \$16,000) will reduce interest costs over the life of the loan

St. Michael's Endowment Fund

- We were extremely fortunate to be able to take \$130,000 from the endowment fund to defray the immediate costs of the roofs and plan for rectory repairs
- Recognize the need to rebuild the endowment fund: reduced level of endowment assets provides reduced "other income" to support Mission Spend Plan as well as reduced assets for future needs

- Also want to encourage estate planning opportunities to include St. Michael's in parishioner's wills, designate as beneficiary on IRAs, life insurance policies, etc. and consider tax advantages of Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts

All of the Financial Pieces are Connected

- Pledges allow us to develop the Mission Spend Plan, including debt repayment and contributions to Major Maintenance Fund
- Drawing down the endowment reduces the "other income" that supports the Mission Spend Plan, as well as reduced assets for future needs. (Conversely, a larger endowment increases potential income to support current and future needs.)
- Capital Campaigns are necessary when we lack funds dedicated to Major Maintenance; \$50,000 of this capital campaign was transferred to Major Maintenance to begin to build that up for future needs
- Continue to explore revenue generating opportunities to use the church buildings so that we might contribute to the Major Maintenance Fund

** Most recent Capital Campaigns:

2013-2017: Moving Forward in Faith Campaign

Church: repairing/refreshing/painting the sanctuary, repairing the stained glass windows, updating the parish hall, replacing the flooring, replacing lighting, etc.

Rectory: new windows, new roof, new flooring in the basement, painting, etc.

1992-1994: Growing in the Spirit Campaign

Church: Kitchen Renovation and Addition of Access Ramp to Parish Hall

Treasurer's Report

The information presented in this report is based on the preliminary end-of-year financial Statement of Activity (AKA “profit and loss statement”) for 2022. The Statement of Position is the basis for comparison between planned and actual income and expenses in our Mission Spend Plan (AKA “operating budget”). The numbers here are preliminary and may change slightly when the accounts are officially closed for the year. In addition, I cannot present a Statement of Position (AKA “balance sheet”) in this report. Some of the information needed for that report will not be received from our financial institutions until early February. I will let parishioners know when full and final financial statements for 2022 are available and how to access them.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to report that St. Michael's had a much better-than-expected financial year in 2022. The MSP adopted by the congregation in early 2022 projected an operating deficit for the year of \$44,373. In fact, we ran only a small deficit. Had we not had to make an unexpected contribution to our staff pension fund as a “catch-up” for some prior-year underpayments, we would actually have had a small surplus in 2022.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Mary Cushing and Michael Avenick, our volunteers who audited the financial records for 2021. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and are crucial for the continued financial health of our parish!

Income and expense results compared to the projected MSP for major categories of income and expenses are presented on the next page. Total income actually exceeded projections and was 109% of the expected amount. Total expenses came in almost exactly on budget. Keeping spending on Buildings and Grounds under budget definitely helped us to achieve good results overall.

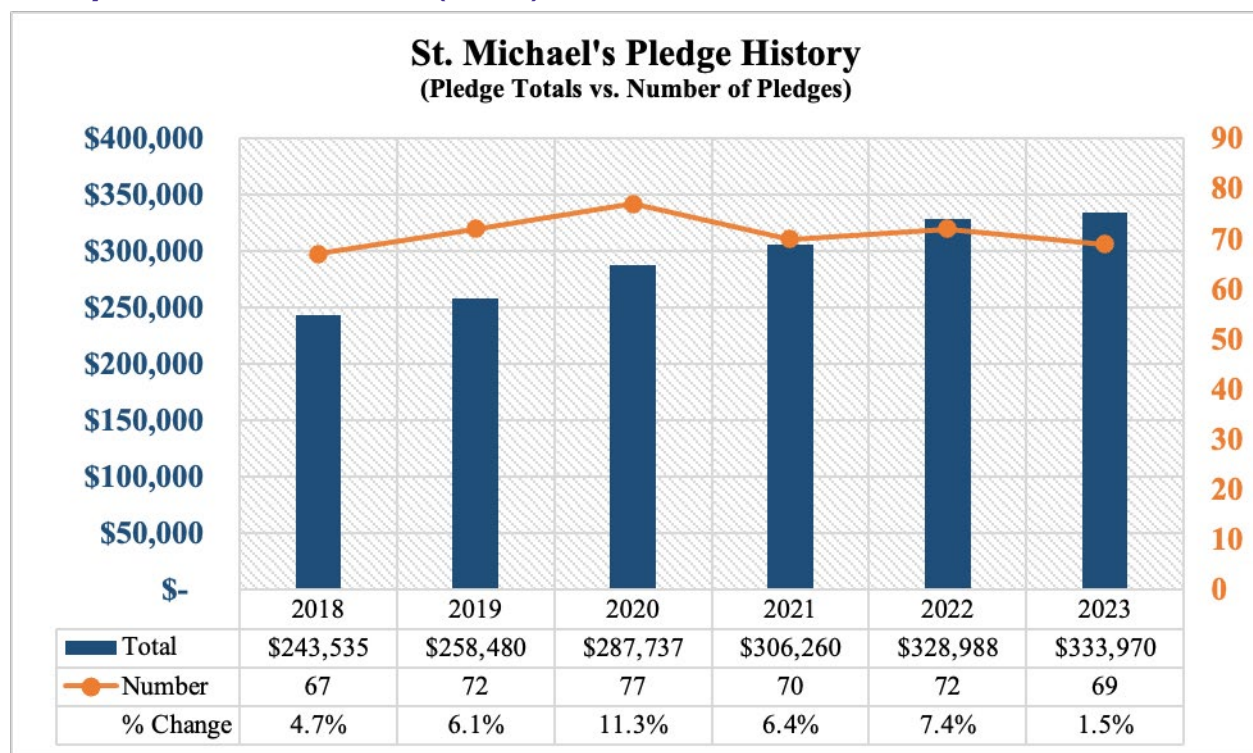
A full (preliminary) Statement of Activity compared to the MSP is included as an Appendix to this report. As you examine it, keep in mind that financial accounts differ greatly in size. A big percentage over or under budget in a small account is much less significant than similar figures in a large account. Also, keep in mind that accounts related to Salaries and Benefits are complicated by both government rules and special regulations pertaining to clergy salaries, taxes, and pensions. Sometimes we need to shift expected expenses related to salaries and benefits from one subaccount to another. This happened in a couple of cases in 2022. Happily, our overall spending on Salaries and Benefits, even with the “catch-up” pension payment, was only 105% of the budgeted amount in the MSP.

Finally, I want to highlight a very important result that is not reflected in the MSP. In addition to generous contributions to the unrestricted operating income of the church, parishioners contributed \$113,189 to the 2022 Capital Campaign. These funds are restricted for use on specific expenses outside the MSP (either currently or in future years) that will help ensure the long-term health of our buildings and our financial foundation.

Preliminary 2022 MSP results: Actual vs. Projected			
	Actual End-of-Year Results	Projected in 2022 MSP	Over or Under Budget %
Income			
Pledges & Offerings	\$367,172	\$337,068	109%
Investment & Other Income	\$11,747	\$11,000	107%
Total Income	\$378,919	\$348,068	109%
Expenses			
Salaries & Benefits	\$226,221	\$214,867	105%
Buildings & Grounds	\$49,217	\$60,400	81%
Parish Administration	\$46,859	\$48,400	97%
Christian Education	\$3,038	\$4,750	64%
Parish Activities	\$9,302	\$11,750	79%
Outreach & Mission	\$52,277	\$52,274	100%
Total Expenses	\$386,914	\$392,441	99%
Net Income (Income minus expenses)	-\$7,996	\$-44,373	

Submitted by Janet Hansen, Treasurer

Every Member Canvass (EMC)



Data current as of January 22, 2023

St. Michael's received 69 pledges for 2023, which included 9 new pledges and 60 renewals. This is the same number of pledges that we received at this time last year and equates to a slight increase in commitments that totaled \$333,970. The continued willingness of our parish to give, despite the inflationary challenges the past year has presented, is especially illustrative of our faith and hope for the future. Thank you so much!

In the previous recent campaigns, the Stewardship Committee asked for significant increases in the pledge amounts to grow our mission and keep ahead of inflation. This year, the financial reality of some of the highest inflation rates we have seen in decades coupled with a weak stock market, made such a request feel like too much. We simply asked you to consider an increase to Grow the Beloved Community "somewhere between Jesus' calling to give away all we have, and that which is achievable." The response by the congregation was remarkably generous, increasing our commitments by almost \$7,000 compared to this time last year.

My thanks to Linda Denson, Kaipo McCartney, Tad McCall and Vicki Barnett who served on this year's Stewardship Committee. We are incredibly grateful for and humbled by the steadfast generosity of the people at St. Michael's.

Dan Ruff

St. Michael's Endowment Fund

Established in 1999, the St. Michael's Fund seeks to ensure a firm financial foundation in furtherance of the mission of St. Michael's Church. Three of the fund's most important purposes include providing additional funds for the maintenance of church properties and the expansion and creation of programs and outreach ministries. The St. Michael's Fund Board members in 2022 were Molly French (Chair), Nora Kelleher, Keith McCartney, Demian Perry, and Bernadette Stout. Beginning in February 2023, members will be Keith McCartney (Chair, 2027), Demian Perry (2025), Bernadette Stout (2026), and incoming members Brian Cavey (2028) and Keelen Collins (2024).

We achieved our 2022 goal of ending the year with the entirety of the St. Michael's Fund invested with The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) of The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, specifically the DFMS Trust Investment Portfolios. One advantage of DFMS is that it applies socially responsibility principles to its investing. The Board is grateful for the many efforts of the St. Michael's Treasurer and the Parish Administrator to gradually transfer the endowment out of The Trustees of the Funds (TOTF). The Fund also received current-year gifts from parishioners and established procedures to track planned gifts.

At DFMS, the market value of the St. Michael's Fund was not available at the time of this printing so will be reported in a February Guardian article. During the year, the St. Michael's Fund Board redeemed \$10,000 to support the church's operating fund. All major U.S. stock indices ended 2022 with significant losses in what Wall Street analysts described as the worst year since 2008. Because of the gradual transfer from one investing fund to another, it is not possible to provide a rate of return for the St. Michael's Fund in 2022. TOTF reported rates of return at -13.06%, and the DFMS rate of return was not available yet, so will also be reported in the Guardian.

Looking ahead to 2023, the St. Michael's Fund Board will expand its efforts to educate the parish about the endowment and encourage planned gifts to preserve and grow the inflation-adjusted value of endowment principal. Gifts of any size are a blessing, and a variety of options are available. For more information about current and planned giving, visit the updated planned giving page on the church website (stmichaelsarlington.org/planned-giving/), or speak with any member of the Fund Board.

The Board heartily thanks St. Michael's parishioners for their generous support of the St. Michael's Fund over the years. The roots of this community run deep and strong in part because of the stewardship of current and past generations.

Faithfully,

Molly French

Parish Communications

In 2022, we published weekly newsletters and sent out occasional messages as needed. All communications were distributed electronically as well as mailed to parishioners who chose that option.

- If you aren't on the mailing list, [please subscribe](#) to receive our electronic communications (or via our website, choose "Connect, Parish Communications") or contact the [Parish Office](#). You'll receive weekly updates and other news that needs to be shared. If you prefer, paper copies of the updates and special announcements can be mailed to you.
- In addition, we occasionally publish "News for Neighbors" to share news and events which may affect our neighbors. You're welcome to [sign up](#) to receive that, too (from the website menu, choose "Connect, News for Neighbors").
- "Like" us on [Facebook](#) to receive social media postings.

Parish Office Report

Next month will mark my first anniversary with St. Michael's. As I have stepped into the gigantic shoes left behind by Wil Harkins, I've been so thankful for the path he paved and the systems he put into place to make it as smooth a transition as possible. I would certainly be lost if not for Wil's willingness to respond to the countless emails I've sent with "question" as the subject line. I would also like to thank Terri Katon, who comes in every week to fold bulletins, and Cindy Warkentin, who steps in when Terri's not available. The Very Rev. Beth has been so patient with me while I learn the ins and out of what it takes to be a Parish Administrator. Her strength and grace in leadership are extraordinary.

In 1984, St. Michael's was given a donation:

The computer is a challenge. Do not expect an entirely automated office in 1985. People will still be needed for many things for many years. In Hi-Tech language, "It will take some time for the machine-people interface to bond." Translated: We have to learn how to use it.

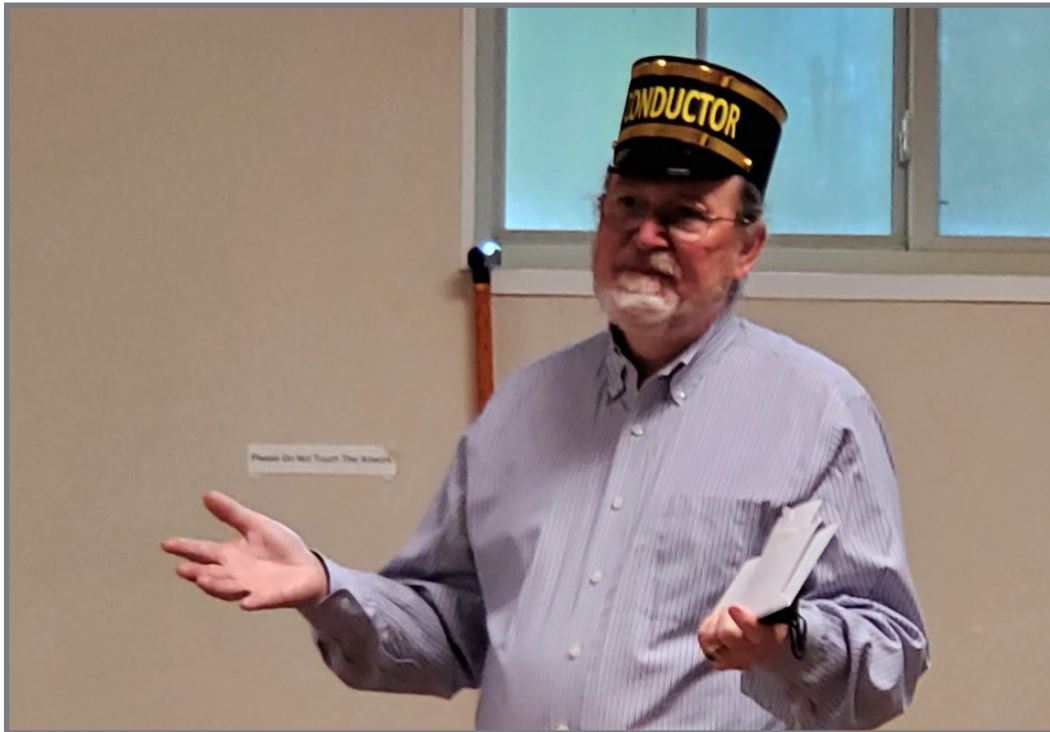
*~Alan Wilber, Administrative Assistant
St. Michael's Annual Report, 1984*

I am glad to report that, in 2023, people are still needed for many things and will still be needed for many years. That's the beauty of community. I'm also pleased to report that Mr. Wilber, along with Secretary, Jackie Hightower, eventually learned to use the computer and passed their knowledge onto subsequent administrators. When I arrived, most of the systems at St. Michael's were already digitized. In 2022, we focused on moving some additional processes, like check-request authorizations and bill paying, online. I'm so thankful to the Vestry for being willing to try new things as we learn the most efficient ways to carry out these routine practices, and to our treasurer, Janet Hansen's attention to detail and willingness to share her knowledge.

After a long hiatus due to the pandemic, we were able to open the building back up to outside users. In 2022, we hosted theatre, art, and music lessons. This summer, we are looking forward to theatre and science camps for kids, as well as continued art and music classes. I'm looking forward to the energy these groups will bring as they fill up the space.

Thank you for welcoming me into St. Michael's. I have loved every minute of the past year.

Katrina Moore, Parish Administrator



WORSHIP

2022 brought with it a season in which we returned to virtual worship (Epiphany) due to a variant strain that caused a dangerous spike in COVID cases locally. With this exception, we were able to offer in person worship with virtual access for the remainder of the year. The continued requirement of masks in worship allowed us to endure the remainder of the year with reasonable confidence. Parishioners gradually readjusted to the rhythm of worshipping in persona as the year went on.

We did make a major change to our worship life, keeping a single Sunday morning service, which we began in the pandemic. Worship was offered at 9 AM through the summer months, and shifted to 9:30 AM in October, after an extensive period of time in which we sought parishioner input. This single service seems to fit the context for ministry well, generously responding to the reality that many volunteers are not ready to make leadership commitments at this point in time. We will continue to re-evaluate so that we are responsive to our context.

Acolytes

St. Michael's acolytes happily returned to action when services were resumed in the Sanctuary. We showed a little rust as we returned to duty but that quickly disappeared after several services. We look forward to 2023 and hopefully to the addition of some younger members.

Wil Harkins

Altar Guild

We continue to setup the altar for services to maintain beauty and comfort in the traditions of the seasons of the liturgical calendar. We have enjoyed a return to in-person communion. While adapting to changes, it is difficult to train and keep others up on procedural changes. We have continued to consider the organization business of our work. We have documented procedures for in-person services, inside or outside, communion or morning prayers. We try to limit the number of people in the sacristy to one, with our main goal being to support our beloved Pastor, Beth, and the entire congregation respectively and responsibly. We continue looking for new members who will join us in 2023 in this support mission. Please contact Beth or [Cindy Warkentin](#) if you're curious about why and how the communion table is readied each Sunday.

Cindy Warkentin

Flower Guild

Beginning in 2022, the Flower Guild became a distinct ministry, separate from but working closely with the Altar Guild, whose responsibility is to arrange and place flowers on the altar for regular worship and special services within the church. In August we held a training for several new members, and were delighted to use all the arrangements from that workshop on

the altar and throughout the church. Our seven current members have shown their distinct style and creativity in their arrangements during each liturgical season. As we continue to build this ministry and hopefully train more members, we have welcomed the handmade wreaths hung on the reredos during Lent and the long stretch of “Ordinary Time” that follows Pentecost. Although we have been able to keep our expenses low with cuttings from the church gardens and flowers provided by guild members, our major source of funds used for the ministry is through altar flower dedications and donations which may be made by anyone, with acknowledgment in the appropriate Sunday worship bulletin.

Barb Adams

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

We began offering Eucharist in both kinds during the season of Easter. A single Lay Eucharistic Minister was added back to the weekly schedule at this point in time. LEMs have been exceedingly gracious and thoughtful as parishioners navigate through theological and practical ramifications of receiving wine from the common cup at this point in time.

The Very Reverend Beth Franklin, Rector

Lector Ministry

Lectors are members of the congregation who, after training, and by continued study, regularly read the lessons at each of the Sunday services. We are blessed to have a regular rotation of lectors who represent the breadth of diversity at St. Michael's. During 2022 lectors faithfully enhanced the worship of the community on a weekly basis.

The Very Reverend Beth Franklin, Rector

Ushering Ministry

Ushers welcome those attending the service, provide service bulletins, help seat those who need assistance, and participate in the worship service. During the worship service, the ushers carry the elements to the altar, take up the collection, and guide parishioners to the altar for communion.

As we returned to in-person worship and adjusted Sunday worship times in 2022, ushers were essential in welcoming parishioners. The thoughtfulness, attention to safety, and creative responsiveness of these leaders made a tremendous impact in the weekly experience of worshipers.

If you'd like to know more about becoming an usher, please contact [Cindy Matlack](#).

Cindy Matlack

Welcoming Ministry (Greeters)

With great joy, we resumed the ministry of greeting parishioners for worship on Sunday morning! The hospitality and commitment of these leaders continues to benefit the entire St. Michael's community.

The Very Reverend Beth Franklin, Rector

Music Program

What a year it has been for music at St. Michael's! It's hard to believe that a year ago, we were forced to be online for several weeks due to the Omicron COVID-19 variant. However, it was truly a blessing to be able to draw upon the already-existing resources we had in order to have music at church. In addition to simply knowing how to run virtual worship when necessary, the recordings that the choir and myself have created over the past few years were a wonderful resource to accommodate for that sudden shift.

Fortunately, we did not have to stay that way all year! One of my favorite parts of our Sunday worship is singing the hymns of our tradition together. As folks have returned to worshipping in person, I have experienced great joy hearing our voices rise in song, both with beloved and new-to-us tunes. With our shift in schedule to our current single service, it has been a real gift to hear every single St. Michael's parishioner raise their voices in the music of our tradition.

I'd like to also give special thanks to the choir for their hard work and dedication. I'm pleased to have welcomed several new folks to our choir loft, which has allowed me to continue to push the choir to learn new, beautiful music that would have been out of reach with fewer voices. The choir has worked incredibly hard on some very challenging music over the past year, so I encourage you to give them some well-earned praise the next time you see them!

Finally, this has also been a year of experimentation! After another successful kid's music event at Shrine Mont, I've been working to engage children in our music-making. As this next year continues, I hope to create more offerings for people of all ages to make music together. Additionally, I applaud the very brave souls who've given handbells a try, even when they did not know how to read music! There will be more opportunities to participate in both of these programs in 2023.

In the year to come, I hope to continue to build our music ministry and continue singing for joy to the Lord with all of you!

Noel Warford, Music Minister

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Formulation

Hybrid offerings continue to maximize participation while making allowances for flexible circumstances. Offerings this year took place in person, online, and in a hybrid context.

Preparation for adult initiation and recommitment to the Episcopal Church took the form of a class entitled “Being With,” led by the rector. We began virtually, and then shifted to gathering in person, with the six individuals who completed this course. One was confirmed, two were received, and two reaffirmed their commitment to the Episcopal Church.

During Lent we did a parish wide book study of The Rev. Canon Stephanie Speller’s, “The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community.” Written in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the call for racial reckoning in 2020, Canon Spellers provides a theologically grounded, practical analysis of this moment in time. Grounded in theological reflections of the alabaster jar cracked open by the woman who anointed Jesus, we thoughtfully wondered about the gifts and beauty to be found in the cracks we had all experienced to our routines, our security, and our expectations. Lay-led small groups allowed for thoughtful engagement with this concept and opportunity. Intentionally naming these realities helped to redirect our energy towards Becoming Beloved Community.

Our journey towards racial reconciliation continued. In October, thirteen parishioners committed to Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles. Three groups met bi-weekly throughout the fall and will continue meeting in the spring of 2023. These circles are facilitated by fellow lay members. Additionally, those who have completed the Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles began gathering on a monthly basis for continued formation. These alums also took a prominent leadership role as the congregation began in earnest the work of Becoming Beloved Community. A highlight of our racial reconciliation work was gathering with Lomax AME Zion Church for World Communion Sunday. On October second, Pastor Nelson preached at St. Michael’s, and I preached at Lomax. Members of the congregations were encouraged to attend worship at the sanctuary that corresponded with the last letter of their name, as assigned. It was a glorious morning of worshipping alongside one another, celebrating how far we’ve come, and recommitting to the tremendous work that still has yet to be done.

We continued to do our best to engage families with children of all ages in all aspects of communal life. The year began with a joyous Mardi Gras gathering at the home of Pauline Kusiak and Dan Plafcan. All families were invited for an outdoor brunch, complete with king cakes and pancake races. The nursery remained open and fully staffed on Sunday mornings, without a single use for six months. In June we discontinued staffing the nursery and offered this as a space for families to use as needed. We launched the program year with a parish-wide back to school party on the church lawn, including a visit from the Kona Ice Truck, a photo booth, and plenty of lawn games. Beginning in September, weekly worship included a bulletin for children that focuses on the lessons or themes of the day, in addition to an opportunity

to be in conversation with the rector during the pocket practice reflection time. Youth Confirmation classes began in the fall and will run for sixteen weeks with the six participants. The Children and Youth Committee continues to provide essential leadership as we seek to form our children of all ages.

The Arts and Faith Ministry once again made a series of robust offerings. Exhibits in a variety of settings continue to be well received. During Lent we featured Scott Erickson's interpretation of the stations of the cross on the parish lawn, and virtually. The months of September and October allowed us to enjoy "Psalms Visualized" by artist Kreg Yingst. Ten of these pieces were purchased to establish the St. Michael's Art Collection, by the founder of the Arts and Faith Ministry, Maureen Doallas. We also began using empty walls as studio space to enhance the experience of being in the building for all who enter. The work of Studio 10 artists is now on display in the hallway leading to the sanctuary in the offices. This ministry continues to provide a meaningful avenue for spiritual engagement for parishioners and visitors alike.

The annual Shrine Mont Parish retreat was well attended by families new to the congregation, as well as those who have been attending for years. Our theme of Reconnecting – with God and one another – was well received and timely. Of note this year was a children's program that was facilitated entirely by staff. Our Music Minister, Parish Administrator, and Seminarian led programming with the children on Saturday morning, allowing parents to fully participate in adult programming. This continues to be an essential annual event in the life of the parish.

Leaders serving in all capacities continue to be formed through prayer, bible study, and opportunities for intentional theological reflection. In all that we do, we strive to form parishioners of all ages as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Very Reverend Beth Franklin

Sunday School For All

Offerings for formation on Sunday morning, outside of worship, were slow to return, as we gradually recalibrated to life in community. All gatherings provided intergenerational entry points for collaboration, relationship building, and formation. Of note was a series on the Prodigal Son that was offered in the Fall.

The Very Reverend Beth Franklin



OUTREACH

Outreach Committee – In Kinship with Our Neighbors



Potato packing for AFAC in the parish hall

St. Michael's supported our neighbors and partners with contributions of goods and services, financial resources and volunteered time and talent as summarized below:



FOOD INSECURITY

AFAC: \$4,000 (donations) and \$1,386 (food contributions); \$6530 (volunteer time).

HOUSING INSECURITY AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

APAH and Path Forward: \$8750 (donations); \$250 (contributions).

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE

POPULATIONS

Doorways and Inova Blood Drive: \$4350 (donations); \$6076 (contributions).

DISASTER/EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

WCK: \$2000 (donations).

In total St. Michael's contributed \$33,342 to help neighbors in our community and to support emergency relief and held at least one volunteer activity each month.



Volunteering at AFAC



Discipleship Sunday

You can help us to do more with our time and talent in 2023 by volunteering and contributing. Become a liaison to Path Forward. Learn more about our partners during small group visits in early 2023. Suggest additional activities or priorities that we should consider to bring us in kinship with our neighbors.

As we cautiously emerged from COVID in 2022, St. Michael's Outreach efforts continued with the guiding theme of "living as doers of the Word alongside Christ and others" (inspired by James 1:22). We joined with community partners to provide financial and volunteer support to our most vulnerable neighbors – those who are food insecure, those who don't have an affordable, safe place to live and those who are at risk and need supportive services. St. Michael's also contributed to global disaster/emergency relief. During our first Discipleship Sunday in September, church members told us they want to do more, learn more about our partners and engage in more family-friendly volunteerism. We have our work cut out for us in 2023!

Partner	Description	St. Michael's Contributions
AFAC (Arlington Food Assistance Center)	<i>Provides weekly supplementary food to an increasing number of families.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parishioners bagged food or sorted cans on the first Saturday of each month contributing 212 hours valued at \$6530. Our food drives resulted in a donation of 774 pounds of cereals and canned goods valued at \$1386. Donated \$4000.
APAH (Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing)	<i>Provides housing for low-income individuals and families.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer activities included bingo, building gingerbread houses and holiday events. Donation of five coats valued at \$250 In December, church members contributed over \$350 in gift cards. Donated \$4000.
Doorways for Women and Families	<i>Creates pathways out of domestic violence and homelessness toward safe, stable lives, providing temporary shelter and transition to permanent housing for women and families</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We delivered Valentine Day packages (soaps, nail polish, etc.) valued at \$276. St. Michael's members donated 12 children's winter coats valued at \$600. In December, church members contributed over \$350 in gift cards. Donated \$4000.

INOVA Blood Drive	<i>Collects blood that saves lives every day in our community.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October's 5th annual Blood Drive in memory of Kim Sutter resulted in 26 units of whole blood (valued at \$200-\$300/unit) that is most often used to treat patients undergoing cancer treatments, surgeries, inherited blood disorders and accident victims. In five years, we contributed 186 units of blood. October 14, 2023, will be the next Blood Drive.
PathForward (formerly ASPAN)	<i>Provides immediate services to end homelessness and rental housing with supportive services for formerly homeless individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Sibert House, we joined residents to plant vegetables, flowers and herbs. In September, we shared an end-of-summer picnic with SH residents. We hope it will be an annual event. In December, youth and parish members made 14 holiday banners to spread holiday cheer and contributed over \$350 in gift cards. Donated \$4000.
WCK (World Central Kitchen)	<i>WCK uses the power of food to nourish communities and strengthen economies in times of crisis and beyond.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donated \$2000 to support Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Romania and Hungary with freshly cooked meals.

2022 Members of the Outreach Committee: Linda Kelleher (Chair), Kristen Hand, Janet Hansen, Mick Sutter, Todd Trapp, Bob Moore (Vestry liaison).



Delivering Valentine's Day packages to Doorways



Delivering winter coats to Doorways



Delivering gift cards to Doorways

Arts & Faith Ministry: A Return to the Walls

Though continuing, Covid-19 infections and hospitalizations arising from the pandemic declined sufficiently in 2021 and 2022 to allow in-person exhibitions to resume. With the conclusion on January 12, 2022, of the Advent group exhibition “Mary, Mary: Contemporary Artists and Poets Consider Mary,” which was archived in the Community section of St. Michael’s website, planning for exhibition schedules for the remainder of 2022-2023 began. Periodic discussions with The Rev. Beth Franklin were held on Zoom and via email throughout the spring, summer, and fall of this year; dates have been scheduled for three 2023 exhibitions.

To view the archived “Mary, Mary” exhibition, go [here](#).

Lent — Scott Erickson’s Stations of the Cross



St. Michael’s Lent exhibition, “Stations of the Cross” by Scott Erickson, opened on March 1, 2022, and concluded on April 6, 2022. For health reasons and convenience, the Stations were printed and erected outside the church building to allow parishioners and their guests, as well as viewers in the surrounding neighborhoods, unfettered access to “pray the Stations” throughout Lent.

The Rev. Beth Franklin presented an early-evening program for children to journey through the Stations at their own pace.

This exhibition was not made available virtually and so was not archived on St. Michael’s website. To view Erickson’s artwork, visit the Church Resources section of the artist’s website, where the downloadable “Stations in the Street” can be found [here](#).

Spring Show Rescheduled

A spring 2022 exhibition, “Beyond Boundaries,” had been planned with Arlington’s Studio 10 artists Elisabeth Hudgins, Kat Jamieson, Linda Maldonado, Elise Ritter, and Deborah Taylor; unfortunately, because of circumstances beyond the artists’ control, the show had to be rescheduled. It will now open in mid-May 2023 and run through mid-June 2023.

Art Workshops and Studio 10 Artworks

A number of watercolor workshops were scheduled at St. Michael's in April, May, and June and again in September and October to meet popular demand.

In addition, Studio 10 artists continued to display work in the hallway leading to the sanctuary. The artists continue to change out their artworks periodically. All artworks are framed and available to purchase.



Fall — Kreg Yingst's Woodblock Prints



A selection of woodblock prints of Psalms by Florida artist and writer Kreg Yingst was the subject of the Ministry's fall exhibition, presented from September 22, 2022, through October 20, 2022.

The solo exhibition, "Psalms Visualized," consisted of 10 full-color block prints, all sized 6" x 4" and framed alike, that were hung in the Parish Hall, and digital images of those prints and an additional 10 color woodcuts presented in a more comprehensive online exhibition that included commentaries and devotions by Yingst, a playlist, a statement about Yingst's artistic process, and a selection of related resources for viewers. Yingst also provided a downloadable catalogue.

Selections from Yingst's series of 150 contemporary visualizations included Psalms 23, 45, 46, 62, 117, 121, 138, and 150.

The online exhibition was archived and can be viewed in its entirety at this [link](#).

An article about the exhibition, written for the digital Episcopal Journal & Café can be read [here](#).

Early Winter — No Advent Show

Following a consultation with The Rev. Franklin, who discussed with me St. Michael's heavy fall schedule of activities, I agreed that we should forgo an exhibition for Advent.

Other 2022 Activities

Following discussions with The Rev. Franklin, I prepared and published in St. Michael's weekly newsletter a description for a volunteer on-site assistant. Despite not requiring an arts background or exhibition experience, no parishioner came forward.

The description can be found in [this newsletter](#).

Particularly noteworthy in late 2022 was the establishment this past autumn of the St. Michael's Art Collection and the Arts & Faith Fund, both of which were spearheaded by the Ministry's leader and curator, who donated 10 woodblock prints by Kreg Yingst and will be including artworks for the Collection in her estate plans. The artworks were presented on the behalf of the Ministry by The Rev. Franklin before Yingst's exhibition closed in October.

Guidelines for donations of artwork are being prepared and will be available in early 2023.

With a generous donation from parishioner Fran Olsen, the Arts & Faith Fund got off to a healthy start. Those wishing to make a contribution to the Fund may do so through OnRealm and designate how the contribution is to be used. Guidelines for use of fund monies (e.g., for purchase of an artwork, for framing of artworks) will be available in early 2023.

Maureen E. Doallas

Wednesday Lunch Bunch Book Group

The Wednesday Lunch Bunch Book group has met regularly, once a month, for more than 10 years, and we have read over 110 books since then! The group is informal in selection of books, focusing primarily on popular fiction and nonfiction works that stimulate discussion around spiritual, moral, ethical, and social topics. Almost any book is a candidate as the group has taken on light-hearted as well as weighty tomes. Members volunteer to "lead" the discussions, but everyone contributes their thoughts and perceptions. The group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:00 -2:00 p.m. in the library September through May, with a 3-month break over the summer. We also pause for the month of December in recognition of the holidays. Everyone is welcome! For more information, please contact [Cindy Warkentin](#).

Prime Time, Formerly XYZ

This fall, the XYZ (Extra years of Zest) program took on a new moniker. Prime Time identifies the group's target audience as well as the midday time of lunch gatherings. In January thru March, we met monthly over Zoom to discuss a psalm and give personal updates. In April we returned to our pre-COVID schedule, meeting in the parish hall the first Thursday of every other month. Our spring forays relied on brown-bag lunches, followed by expert presenters: In April, Dr. Richard Jones, retired missions professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, spoke on the Sudanese Anglican dioceses. In June, Mary Cushing of St. Michael's & Jeri Pincham of Lomax AME Zion introduced models of church leadership in their respective denominations—vocational deacons and class leaders. As a summer highlight, Beth Franklin hosted a lunch at the rectory. In October, we returned to a potluck lunch format; here Beth Cavey recapped her summer Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. In December, Anne Harman & I walked participants through *The Road to Bethlehem*, a picture book from David Donaldson's collection featuring Ethiopian art & Christmas legends. At every gathering we enjoy the fellowship—and laughter—of women from Lomax AME Zion. In the new year, all are welcome to join us, for food, conversation, and inspiration.

Evelyn Bence

APPENDIX: FINANCIAL REPORT DETAILED TABLES

ACTUAL VS PROJECTED INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR 2022 (ALL ACCOUNTS)

	Actual 12/31/22	2022 MSP	Actual vs projected
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Pledges & Offerings			
4100 · Pledges	\$287,805	\$327,068	102%
4104 · Advance Pledges Transfer	\$45,322		
4101 · Other Contributions	\$31,358	\$10,000	314%
4200 · Prior Year Pledges	\$2,687		
Total Pledges & Offerings	\$367,172	\$337,068	109%
Investment & Other Income			
4401 · St. Michael's Fund Transfer	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
4520 · Miscellaneous Income	\$1,747	\$1,000	175%
Total Investment & Other Income	\$11,747	\$11,000	107%
Total Income	\$378,919	\$348,068	109%
Expense			
Salaries & Benefits			
5110 · Salaries	\$168,062	\$153,303	110%
5111 · Staff expenses	\$1,681	\$2,100	80%
5115 · Supply Clergy Stipend	\$1,906	\$2,220	86%
5120 · Pension Contributions	\$32,212	\$22,956	140%
5130 · Insurance (Staff)	\$12,899	\$20,260	64%
5140 · Payroll taxes (FICA)	\$5,368	\$11,728	46%
5160 · Auto Allowance	\$576	\$500	115%
5170 · Payroll Fees	\$2,148	\$800	269%
5180 · Rector's Hospitality Fund	\$1,370	\$1,000	137%
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$226,221	\$214,867	105%
Buildings & Grounds			
5230 · Insurance	\$11,484	\$11,700	98%
5240 · Utilities	\$9,123	\$8,700	105%
5241 · Utilities - Rectory	\$4,040	\$3,700	109%
5250 · Cleaning/Maintenance	\$5,474	\$8,600	64%
5251 · Lawn Service	\$0	\$2,000	0%

5260 · Fire/Security	\$5,108	\$4,900	104%
5270 · Routine Maintenance			
5270.1 · Elevator Maintenance	\$5,798	\$7,800	74%
5270.2 · Routine Maintenance	\$7,190	\$12,000	60%
Total - 5270 Routine Maintenance	\$12,988	\$19,800	66%
5280 - Transfers to Fund #3 Major Maintenance	\$1,000	\$1,000	100%
Total Buildings & Grounds	\$49,217	\$60,400	81%
Parish Administration			
5320 · General Office Expenses	\$9,198	\$7,500	123%
5330 · Telephone Expense	\$3,689	\$4,800	77%
5331 · Telephone Expense - Rectory	\$1,068	\$1,100	97%
5340 · Postage	\$676	\$1,000	68%
5350 · Administrative Services	\$20,228	\$18,000	112%
5360 · Debt Service	\$12,000	\$16,000	75%
Total Parish Administration	\$46,859	\$48,400	97%
Christian Education			
5410 · Church School	\$255	\$750	34%
5420 · Adult Education	\$1,096	\$2,000	55%
5440 · Clergy Continuing Education	\$1,686	\$2,000	84%
Total Christian Education	\$3,038	\$4,750	64%
Parish Activities			
5510 · Hospitality	\$1,783	\$2,000	89%
5520 · Music & Choir	\$2,302	\$3,000	77%
5530 · Communications	\$1,122	\$2,500	45%
5540 · Senior Youth Group	\$85		
5550 · Diocesan Council Meetings	\$235	\$100	235%
5560 · Vestry/Annual Meeting	\$307	\$450	68%
5570 · Altar Guild Expenses	\$768	\$1,000	77%
5580 · Shrine Mont Scholarships	\$2,700	\$2,700	100%
Total Parish Activities	\$9,302	\$11,750	79%
Outreach & Mission			
5620 · Diocesan Pledge	\$26,112	\$26,109	100%
5630 · Transfers to Fund #26 Outreach	\$26,165	\$26,165	100%
Total Outreach & Mission	\$52,277	\$52,274	100%
Total Expense	\$386,914	\$392,441	99%
Net Ordinary Income	-\$7,996	-\$44,373	

