



## **2020 Annual Reports**

January 24, 2021

St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
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## 2020 Annual Reports

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### **2020 Vestry**

Rich Couch (2021)  
Debbie Robertson (2021)  
Diane Verlinde (2021)  
Betty Bullard (2022)  
Jim Marquart (2022)  
Mike Mapes (2022)  
Marcy Capell (2023)  
Amy de Lourenco (2023)  
Dean Logemann (2023)  
Kristy Callihan, Senior Warden  
Tom Baranowski, Junior Warden  
Nita Baranowski, Treasurer

## **Rector's 2020 Annual Report**

by: The Rev. Matt Holcombe

What an amazingly transformative year it has been with new beginnings, new learnings, and a healthy dose of surprises rooted in God's abundance. As one of my most challenging years in ministry, I'm grateful for a committed community and a loving family who encouraged, inspired, and cheered me on.

My first Sunday at St. Michael's, February 2, was a spirit-filled outpouring of excitement and endless possibilities. Several weeks later Bishop Kym Lucas joined us as we celebrated the beginning of a new ministry together. The first six weeks of my ministry at St. Michael's was as I anticipated; meeting parishioners, preaching, visiting people in the hospital, staff meetings, administering last rites, presiding over the Eucharist, lunch planning meetings, and discovering the spiritual depth at St. Michael's.

Then on March 15, everything changed. With the news of a highly contagious and deadly virus spreading across the globe, we made the difficult decision to cease in-person worship services and transition to online virtual worship services and meetings. The only problem ... St. Michael's didn't have the equipment or technical capabilities to go "digital." That week we mobilized, purchased equipment and licenses, and pivoted to ensure we remained connected and focused on growing our faith. With the building closed and a directive from the bishop's office to cease Communion, St. Michael's was in uncharted territory.

During the first several months of the pandemic I began to experience a profound hunger, excitement, and commitment from our church to not idly "wait out" the pandemic. New small group experiences and leaders emerged, energy for a state-of-the-art audio-video-lighting system came into focus, and the determination to lean into an innovative model for ministry became our driving force. With the creation of the Next Steps Committee and weekly Vestry Meetings we began positioning ourselves, unknowingly, to thrive during a global pandemic as we began to live, learn, and love beyond our walls.

We experimented with outdoor worship services, drive-thru Communion, quarterly donation drives, new styles of music in worship, Christmas Communion Bags, and ways to have safe outdoor gatherings. We dreamt up ways to "do" and "be" the church in a pandemic which included a dunk tank on St. Michael's Day and converting our property into an outdoor Christmas Light Festival (which welcomed over 900 people to our campus).

It has been an amazing year full of tears, laughter, sadness, and joy. I'm so proud to be your rector and walking beside each of you on your spiritual journey. A special thank you to Kristy Callihan, Tom Baranowski, the Vestry, the Next Step Committee, staff, and all the lay leaders that have made this my best year at St. Michael's! With several open staff positions and new resources to help us grow, I anticipate a great year of discovery, transformation, and abundance.

I'm excited about how God will continue to call us to be faithful, be bold, and live into the endless possibilities that await us in 2021.

## Associate Rector's 2020 Annual Report

by: The Rev. Judi Sato

This has been a year. We've experienced the loss of many of our beloved parishioners, the loss of our church routine, and the loss of the use of our building. On the other hand, we have also thrived. We welcomed a new Rector and almost immediately we had to shut down due to the pandemic. Matt's unrelenting energy and vision has grown St. Michael's parish in ministry, outreach, pastoral care, and visibility in our diocese and beyond. I am honored to be a part of all this. And I think because we continue to thrive it is helping us heal from our losses.

My role this year has been helping us reach out to everyone in the parish with managing the Calling Ministry. So many of you have volunteered to be a part of this important ministry by calling 10 or more parishioners on a regular basis. Thank you so very much.

Our Stephen Ministry has also continued. The Supervisory Group continues to meet via Zoom. We still have Stephen Ministers working with their Care Receivers. We have several of them available should you need someone to help you process how we move in a time when we still need to stay isolated.

I think of all the ministries I have helped guide, Fellowship, has been the most affected by the pandemic. But Fellowship is still continuing. Our Virtual Coffee Hours have been attended by more than those who would normally show up between services. And people are getting to know one another. Recently a parishioner went for a walk in the park and ran into another parishioner they had recognized from coffee hour! Amazing!! Plus we also held a Virtual Zoomgiving instead of our regular Thanksgiving gathering. Over 25 people joined us during those two hours.

This brings me to worship. The worship during this unique time has been some of the most spiritual and faith building times. From the Live Online services, meditations by our soloist and virtual choirs, outdoor worship, and addition of Zoom Compline, Evening Prayer, and *Lectio Divina*, we have reached more people than ever before. Handing out Communion to those who drive up is in some ways more spiritual and meaningful because I actually get to talk to you a bit. I am riding a Spiritual High!!

So if we are doing so well, why do I feel that it is time to retire? St. Mike's is going strong and I know that it will continue to do so. I feel It's time to move on and see what new things God is doing out there. I also want to see my family near and far and to explore Colorado and the world. Don't worry, I'm not going away. I'll pop in from time to time and at some point, find out how I fit back in to St. Michael's.

On the whole, 2020, has been a huge blessing to me and I hope to many of you.

## Deacon's 2020 Annual Report

by: The Rev. Gary Darress

I was ordained as a Vocational Deacon by Bishop Kym Lucas, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, on June 20, 2020, and started my vocation as a deacon at St. Michael's on Sunday, August 30, 2020.

Since my placement at St. Michael's, I have worked extensively with Matt and Judi on the ministry of a deacon in a parish setting. The primary ministry in a parish is to proclaim the gospel to the congregation during services. I bring the world to the church and the church to the world. I set the altar for the priest to celebrate the Eucharist. I also function in other roles during the liturgy appropriate for a deacon.

I will continue my diaconal formation with the Bishop's office, and Matt as my supervising priest. The areas I will continue to focus on for my formation are: liturgy, homiletics, diaconal leadership and advocacy, outreach ministries, and understanding the church's workings.

Shortly after arriving at St. Michael's, I had the privilege of assisting Matt with the organization, printing the curriculum, material, book distribution, and co-leading a dialogue circle for **Sacred Ground**. I foresee my continued advocacy for those affected by systemic racism and all who are discriminated against in our community. I've also helped compile a list of local organizations and service providers for a Mental Health referral sheet for the St. Michael's community. In addition, I've compiled a list of local organizations and service providers for a General/Food Resource Sheet to be used for the St. Michael's community.

I look forward to continuing with Kairos Prison Ministry International and my homeless ministry at Antlers Park in downtown Colorado Springs. I'm also actively learning American Sign Language so that I can communicate with the Deaf Community in a manner that respects their culture.

As a deacon I fully participate in the life of St. Michael's and attend weekly staff meetings, Vestry meetings, and Next Step meetings. I also attend Outreach Committee meetings as a non-voting member and am looking forward to getting more involved in our Outreach ministries and partners.

As a retired police officer I've also used some of my gifts to help with the overall security of St. Michael's and help as needed. I've responded to a few active alarms at the church and even assisted in the apprehension of a burglary suspect and helped to report a stolen truck that was parked in our parking lot.

It's been a full, interesting, and fulfilling several months at St. Michael's and I look forward to discerning how God will continue to use me at St. Michael's and in our community.

## Senior Warden's 2020 Annual Report

by: Kristy Callihan

Wow, what a year 2020 has been. A worldwide COVID 19 pandemic in March of 2020 caused us to re-imagine how we “do” church. We were required to shut our doors to the church for safety. It was not what any of us could have fathomed. However, we rose to the challenge with innovative ideas. Matt+, Judi+, Gary, Joe, Rob, and the entire staff took us “beyond our walls.”

It is difficult to express all that has transpired this year as much has changed ... beyond comprehension, really. Consider our 2020 journey, month-by-month:

- January
  - St. Michael's eagerly awaited the Holcombe family arrival.
- February
  - The Holcombes arrived, and we had a Valentine's Day potluck dinner to welcome their family.
- March
  - Rev. Matt Holcombe's was installed by Bishop Kim Lucas. This month, the worldwide COVID 19 quarantine required us to offer church in a "new way". We created a calling tree for members to check in on others. The weekly new email was launched to offer transparent and frequent communication.
- April
  - The Vestry met weekly and the Next Steps Committee was formed to determine the new journey for St. Michael's.
- May
  - The backyard grounds received extensive prep for outdoor worship. We rallied together and completed a socially distanced Parish Work Day! We also held a Food Donation Drive to help our community partners that had an outstanding response!
- June
  - We held our first outdoor church service and a socially distanced “Picnic with a Priest” was offered.
- July
  - We recognized the need for updated audio/visual equipment and launched the “Beyond Our Walls” fundraiser and earned needed funds in a 3-week period. S'mores at the Holcombe's and other fun events were also offered to engage youth.
- August
  - We had “Church on the Road” where Sunday service was offered in the backyards of our parish members. We hosted a second Food Donation Drive to assist our community partners. We began offering Home Communion Delivery. We also welcomed Deacon Gary Darress to our St. Michael's team.
- September
  - A reimagined St. Michael's Day included a sidewalk chalk competition and a dunk tank featuring Rev. Matt Holcombe+. We hosted a second Parish Work Day to continue to prep the grounds for outdoor services to include significant tree fire mitigation.
- October
  - Several small groups started to include a bible study, Christian Essentials, and Sacred Ground. We also held a socially distanced Trunk-or-Treat complete with candy chutes.

- November
  - Our very first Zoom Thanksgiving! A third Food Donation Drive was held to help our community partners. The Daily Journey email was launched which offers a scripture and simple challenge to embrace God's word into our day.
- December
  - Matt+ offered a Virtual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We had a first-ever Christmas Light Festival to celebrate Advent, along with several online Christmas services with a special Christmas Communion. We celebrated Rob Carefoot, our organist and Music Director, on his retirement.

As we look forward to 2021, we know much is still changing. We prepare for Judi's+ retirement and begin our search for an Assistant Rector and Music Director. We also fervently pray for healing with vaccines for COVID and the pandemic to resolve.

Personally, I am most proud of our St Michael's family. Through all the 2020 changes, we remained "anchored" to one another. We have managed to grow, love one another and find ways to connect (virtually!).

## Junior Warden's 2020 Annual Report

by: Tom Baranowski

The Junior Warden responsibilities were impacted by the Covid virus this year, primarily due to the concern for and a conservative approach to spending parish monies. Upon taking the position, and with thanks to Mike Mapes who served prior to my election, I identified the major church needs. These major needs were and are roofing and heating and cooling units (HVAC).

Roofing: I identified the most major concern in this area to be the roof over our church organ. I obtained multiple reviews of the roofs, as well as a number of quotations. With the approval of a Vestry vote the roof over the church organ was replaced with an extended life roof by a local licensed and certified roofing contractor.

The roofs over the office and St Mary's were reviewed by contractors. Recommendations for those were to arrange for replacement in the next few years. To extend the life of the office flat roof in the short term, I arranged for significant maintenance work on that roof. I will continue to monitor the St Mary's roof and make recommendations to Vestry based on its condition and input from contractors, who will provide reviews in the Spring.

HVAC: A number of our units are over 21 years old. Spring service and maintenance resulted in recommendations that we seriously consider replacement of 3 units. With contractor support, and within reasonable financial guidelines, the effort will be to maintain these as long as possible, considering our Covid constraints.

Other actions taken for our parish are noted below.

- Certainly the new video and audio systems were a major undertaking. Volunteers spent time helping in numerous ways to offset some of the costs for this project.
- A new property wide camera system was installed adding to our property security.
- Our fire protection alarm service and burglar alarm system were both upgraded adding to property security.
- Lighting on our property behind the church was reviewed, updated and repaired, thanks in significant part to Jim Marquart.
- Lawn mowers were serviced and repaired. Volunteers, "The Lawn Rangers," took on the mowing responsibilities saving the church significant dollars.
- Two St. Mike's volunteer days were held. A great deal of clean up and fix up was done by a hearty and willing group of parish volunteers, to include a major effort by our parish Boy Scouts!
- An effort to review and evaluate our church organ was undertaken. Service work included increasing air circulation around components, replacing a key electrical component, and tuning maintenance.
- In addition, there have been several toilets repaired, vacuum cleaners tweaked, and many light bulbs replaced.

All in all it was an interesting year with frustrations and challenges, but certainly worthwhile!



## **Treasurer's 2020 Annual Report**

by: Anita Baranowski

2020 was a successful year financially for the Church of St Michael the Archangel. Our regular pledge income was over what was budgeted by about \$2,843. Due to Covid-19 restrictions non-offering and consistent donations were under budget by about \$12,612. Expenses were kept low with general expenses coming in under budget by \$11,798. A new easier to follow website was created. Several expensive building maintenance projects were completed to include both interior and outdoor light replacements, major tree removal for fire mitigation, a new roof over the organ, and upgraded to code and technology the fire and security system. In addition, over \$87,949 was raised for the new audio-visual equipment to allow more efficient and continued video streaming of services. The Church did apply for and obtain a Payroll Protection Program Loan which enabled the continued payment to wages to the Nursery and Administrative personnel throughout the pandemic. St. Micheal's ended the year with a loss of \$815. A new bookkeeper was hired in 2020. The new bookkeeper has been a great asset to the church preparing the monthly financials, entering and tracking payroll and bringing the financial statements in line with GAAP guidelines.

For the 2021 budget there are 187 pledges which is slightly lower than in 2020. However, the pledges for 2021 are \$546,120 compared to 2020 pledges of \$495,818.

There is \$243,329 in total cash reserves. Thanks to stock donations in 2020 there is \$245,744 in the Endowment fund. The Scholarship Fund balance is \$16,813. The available cash is \$172,080 which is above the level recommended by the Accountant.

The budget for 2021 has been approved by the Vestry. The budget has total income as \$614,760 with expenses of \$605,219. The budget will be tight, but allows for some additional personnel to support the clergy and parish.

St. Michael's had a successful audit in the spring of 2020. The Vestry approved a review instead of a full audit of the financials for 2021. The review will be scheduled with Lane McMullin, LLC tentatively for February 2021 dependent on their schedule.

Thanks go out to the Finance Committee members: The Rev. Matt Holcombe, Senior Warden Kristy Callihan, Junior Warden Tom Baranowski, Michael Mapes, Nancy Jones, Dean Logemann, and Aaron Dejoia for all their hard work during 2020. Thanks go out to the new bookkeeper, Yani Rehorn, for all her support through this difficult year. The members of the Deposit Committee have been most supportive in transitioning from in house counts to weekly Zoom Meetings due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Their willingness to adjust to these meetings has been invaluable.

I have been the treasurer for the last year. I am delighted to announce that I will be continuing in the position in 2021.

To say thank you to all the Church of St Michael the Archangel for their generous support over the last year hardly seems enough. I wish you all many blessings in 2021.

			2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
		Pledges	479,998.00	483,401.46	525,000.00
	Income	Unpledged Giving	57,700.00	46,388.36	41,000.00
		Special Giving	11,800.00	4,526.00	
		Other Income	32,840.00	35,410.09	48,760.00
	Total Income		582,338.00	569,725.91	614,760.00
	Expense				
		Outreach - DioCO/Reg.	58,557.00	55,910.07	54,000.00
		Outreach - St. Mike's	20,000.00	15,158.78	25,000.00
		Religious Programs	20,300.00	24,920.02	20,700.00
		Facility Related	54,180.00	54,616.99	60,200.00
		Admin Support	75,558.00	71,388.49	68,600.00
		Compensation/Benefits	354,469.00	349,482.39	376,719.00
	Total Expense		583,064.00	571,476.74	605,219.00
Net Income			-726.00	-1,750.83	9,541.00

## **Worship 2020 Annual Report**

by: The Rev. Matt Holcombe

St. Michael's saw a significant shift in worship as a result of the COVID19 pandemic. Prior to March 2020, St. Michael's had several regular weekly Eucharist services that included

- Sunday 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
- Sunday 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
- Tuesday 11:00 AM Eucharist & Healing Services
- Saturday 6:00 PM Celtic Eucharist Service

Prior to March, St. Michael's average in-person Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) was 275.

In March we experienced significant changes to our worship schedule which is reflected below:

- Sunday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer / Holy Eucharist Rite II
- Sunday 11:00 AM Children's Chapel
- Tuesday 11:00 AM Prayer Service
- Tuesday 8:00 PM Compline
- Thursday 8:00 PM Compline
- Friday 7:00 Evening Prayer

Due to diocesan restrictions and guidelines, St. Michael's offers all weekly worship services online through Facebook, Vimeo, and/or Zoom. During the months of July-September we held several outdoor in-person worship experiences following federal, state, county, and diocesan guidelines. Attendees were required to wear a mask and remain a minimum of six feet from others.

March through July St. Michael's worshiped using Morning Prayer Rite II following guidelines from the Diocese of Colorado. In July St. Michael's began offering safe, physically distanced Communion (wafer only) in a pre-packaged and sealed bag. Drive-thru Communion became the primary way we were able to distribute communion.

With limited access to the sanctuary and out of caution for worship leaders and participants, we've been unable to have acolytes, readers, Eucharistic visitors, and normal regular involvement from the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Sacristans, and Greeters.

In 2020 we utilized a single camera and simple microphone to broadcast all of our worship services. In 2021 we look forward to using the new state-of-the-art AVL (audio / video / lighting) system to enhance our worship.

## **Christian Formation 2020 Annual Report**

by: Joe Hattick

*Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.  
Galatians 6:9*

The year 2020 started very normally with Sunday School in person meetings in January – March. We have excellent attendance at all our in-person programs. Then when we shut down in March, Christian Formation was suddenly changed.

### **Youth**

We took a couple of weeks to change gears and start holding online Zoom meetings for middle school and high school youth. We got super creative with mailings of lesson elements. One such lesson was a virtual fireside chat with s'mores kits mailed to homes. One weekend was spent driving to every youth's house and delivering Graduation cupcakes for a graduation celebration. We stayed exclusively virtual until after school let out and then in July and August started finding ways to safely meet in person again, outdoors.

We went on a hike in Garden of the Gods and did fun things like playing kick ball and kite building in Matt's backyard. The youth responded really well. Back to school and cooler weather presented new challenges as youth experienced a shifting target of partly in school and online education. We continued the outdoor meetings until it grew too cold to continue. And we shifted back to online meetings. Everyone is tired of meeting online but many agree it is better than not meeting at all.

### **Children and families**

The shift away from in-person meetings might have hit this group the hardest. We have tried to be innovative with a virtual children's chapel on Sundays and one-off events including a sidewalk chalk art event at Halloween and a virtual visit with Santa Claus.

In September we launched a weekly video for a virtual Sunday School lesson. The video is simple enough for most kids and thoughtful enough for most adults. There are sets of questions at the end for every age group. We also purchased a subscription to a weekly children's bulletin we make available on our website.

### **Other Formation efforts**

We have numerous Formation efforts that are ongoing for adults. By the end of 2020 we were hosting at minimum 40 weekly, bi weekly or monthly zoom meetings for the purpose of Formation and/or Worship and/or Fellowship. We are reaching at least 200 persons a week with meetings ranging from Compline to Celtic Spirituality and Lectio Divina. On top of this there have been numerous one-off events like the Thanksgiving drop-in Zoom and a newcomer meeting that was so big it needed a second night. Our digital offerings have not been without hiccups, but mostly well received with parishioners who have been mostly patient with us as we work out challenges as they arise.

## **Music 2020 Annual Report**

by: **Rob Carefoot**, Director of Music & Organist

We have had a challenging and difficult year, like everyone! Public singing has been a taboo public activity since the pandemic began. It has not been possible for our choirs to meet in person and producing music for services has been challenging. But along with difficulties, the pandemic has presented opportunities and new experiences.

We rose to the challenge and learned to make virtual choir presentations from remote locations, which actually provided an unusual and new outlet for creativity! We can do things with this medium that we can't do with live music. This required learning new skills for computer aided activities including recording, entering recorded portions into software programs, "layering" multiple tracks of music into a single recording, and working with new heightened copyright requirements with the advent of live-streamed worship services.

We added a professional soloist, Amalia Dobbins, and occasionally Sarah Groh, to the music components of the Sunday service. We learned to condense the music from two services into one, trying to fit multiple music resources into a single time frame, and so on. The result, I think, has been harmonious, beautiful, and meaningful.

In the Fall, the Chancel choir started back up as usual, virtually, rehearsing through Zoom, and making recorded anthems, like the Sunrise Singers. By Christmas-time we were even able to add the hand bells back into the mix, which was wonderful! I pray that the future moments in the music life of this parish blossom and flourish as new opportunities arise. I have loved providing music for you all, as beautiful and meaningful as I possibly could, in the hope that your lives would be enriched. Blessings to all, Rob

by: **Linda Page**, Director of St. Michael's Virtual Choir / Sunrise Singers / Youth Choir

What a year! Everyone experienced 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic differently, and the Sunrise Singers was certainly no exception. The Sunrise Singers began singing at the 8:00 AM service about once a month in June 2010. While we have had many singers come and go, we have maintained a stalwart group that began with about 7-8 singers that grew to as many as 24 and now is stable with about 14 or 15 voices.

The Youth Choir fluctuates in number, mainly because the kids grow up and move on. It is gratifying, however, to see the number of past members who continue to make music part of their lives. Foremost among them: Elena Zarecky, JJ DeVoe, Lily DiSilverio, Andrew Wetteman, to name a few.

The last piece that the Sunrise Singers and the Youth Choir were working on together was "Prayer of the Children". We were practicing and planned to sing it during Lent of 2020. I am hopeful that we will be able to sing it in the coming year.

Our last in-person Sunday together was March 15, 2020. The week following was spent thinking about how I could keep people singing together. With the enthusiastic support of the Sunrise Singers, we embarked on an adventure, and one with results that I would not have thought possible. Mary Hattick was "instrumental" in providing the technical wizardry to put the audio pieces together. We all were on a very steep learning curve! We had our first Zoom practice on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and the rest, as they say, is history.

We have met every week since then, which is three more times a month than usual! An inspiration from one of our members led to inviting previous St. Michael's singers who moved away to join us in this endeavor. We have had former parishioners from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Arizona, and Canada sing with us. It has been wonderful to reconnect with them, on Zoom and in song!

Since April, two additional people from our ranks have learned the software that we've been using to create the audio recordings. Mary Hattick, Jan McLaughlin, and Charlie Marino form our Audacity Team and are indispensable to the group's efforts. We have recorded 16 pieces to date and are currently working on #17. In addition, in the past several months, members from the 10:30 choir have joined us to sing.

The Youth Choir has not yet been able to regroup during the pandemic. We were able to organize some of them for the reading of the Christmas story on Christmas Eve and to provide some of the music at the 4:00 service. I am hopeful that their involvement can be expanded in the coming year. So, despite the uncertainty and isolation of this year, it has truly been a blessing to have so many who continue to make music to the glory of God! Thank you, singers and musicians!

Peace, Linda Page

## **Newcomer & Membership 2020 Annual Report**

by: Linda Kean, Newcomer Ministry Coordinator

As everyone is aware, 2020 was a difficult year with many changes of how we “do” church. With that also comes the difficulty in welcoming newcomers and bringing new people forward as members of our church family. Since things were becoming virtual it was difficult to know whether anyone new was watching. To help with this dilemma, we installed a sign-up on our website so people could receive our Weekly Newsletter. This allowed us to locate and contact people who may be interested in knowing more about St. Michael’s. What we also discovered was that there were people who did not live in Colorado Springs who regularly attended our online services and activities. Working from home, I was able to send out emails, welcoming people to St. Michael’s and requested they respond with more information so we could assist them further in their search for a church family.

What amazed us was that during 2020, we welcomed 33 Official New Members, 55 Regular Participants (those that had not yet completed the Membership Information Form, requesting membership or transfer), 16 Regular Digital participants (those living outside our area) and 24 prospects, who signed up for our Weekly News.

With all this activity we scheduled three Newcomer Gatherings via Zoom – July 20<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup> where a total of 36 people attended and were welcomed to St. Michael’s. Prior to these Newcomer Gathering, I delivered a book, *Walk in Love, Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*, and some other gifts in our Canvas St. Michael’s Episcopal Church Saving the Planet bag.

As we enter 2021, we look forward to welcoming newcomers and new members with more direct contact from our Newcomer Shepherds. This will be a new program where we have parishioners assigned to newcomers where they will keep in touch with them and hopefully in the new year be able to take them to coffee!

As of December 31, 2020, we had 495 current active members.

## **Outreach 2020 Annual Report**

by: Rich Couch, Outreach Chair

2020 has been an exciting year for the Outreach Committee. Early in the year, we developed a set of Objectives and Guidelines for the committee. Next, we put together a Grant Application that requests the champion for each project to provide information on how it supports the St. Mike's Outreach ministry objectives and how parish involvement works in the activity. Once the Grant Applications were received, the Committee determined which projects to support. The projects receiving support in 2020 include: The Lord's Dinner, Mercy's Gate, Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), The Colorado House (Partners in Housing), TwoCor, Tessa, St Mathias Episcopal Church – Haiti, Care & Share Food Bank, West Side Cares, and the Colorado Diocesan Fire Relief Fund.

COVID has caused many challenges in the support the parish provided. For instance, the Lord's Dinner was put on hold; so to continue support of the homeless, a "Dinner in a Bag" was created. These meals are a viable alternative and they provide a full and healthy meal. Because of the stress put on Colorado Springs food banks, we conducted three food drives to help Mercy's Gate and Family Promise meet the needs of their clients. Because we were not allowed to host IHN families, meals were provided to families at an alternate location. Our support of adult prison ministries through Kairos was put on hold because of the virus. Even with all the COVID related issues, our Outreach ministries continued to thrive.

One exciting expansion of the Committee is the involvement of parish youth. As we reach out to the Episcopal church in Haiti, we are starting a letter writing exchange with the young people in this parish. Our younger members also participated in the food drives. In the future we will look for ways to expand youth involvement in Outreach projects.

To meet the growing needs of our ministry partners, St. Mike's hosted four successful contactless donation drives in the parking lot. Food and essentials were collected for Mercy's Gate and The Colorado House. We've also put donation bins outside the church office for parishioners to donate regularly to the Lord's Dinner, pill bottles for Medical Mission, and Candles & Cans.

In 2020 we were good stewards of \$20,000 that made a significant impact in our communion and beyond our walls. Thank you for all the support and help!