



## **2023 Annual Reports**

St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
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## **2023 Vestry Members**

Senior Warden: Russ Howell

Junior Warden: Danny Raider & Mike Mapes

Treasurer: Chris Couch

Class of 2024: Andy Laffely, Regina Winters, Elena Zarecky

Class of 2025: Ruth Morrison, Linda Page, Rachel Stoller

Class of 2026: Rod Sato, Lee Kulbitski, Bob Poli

Clerk: Aprel Mitchell

## **2023 Staff Members**

The Rev. Matt Holcombe, Rector

The Rev. Vicki Hesse, Associate Rector

The Rev. Gary Darress, Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Sanders, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Winnie Mitchell, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Judi Sato, Assisting Clergy

Owen Copps, Director of Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Ama Couch, Communications Coordinator

Diane Dennison, Receptionist & Volunteer Coordinator

Amalia Dobbins, Director of Music

Daniel Foster, Organist

Linda Kean, Newcomer Ministry Coordinator

Bojana & Marinko Pantovic, Sextons

Tamika Richardson, Sexton (as of December 2023)

Jan McLaughlin, Finance Manager

Jennie Wandfluh, Director of Parish Life

Elly Thatcher, Christine Baranowski, & Jessica Frank, Nursery Staff



## Rector Report

The Rev. Matt Holcombe

It has become clear over the years that no single annual report can communicate the essence of a parish, the transformation that has transpired, and the ways in which we've deepened our relationships with God, the world, and one another. It is my hope and prayer that future generations will look back upon this season and be inspired by the commitment and dedication the people of St. Michael's have had to making Christ known within and beyond our walls.

2023 marked another significant year of faithful discipleship, spiritual growth, and living into God's abundance. We are blessed by a talented staff that lead with their heart, while inspiring and encouraging others every step of the way. Our Vestry navigated several big decisions that will have a positive and lasting impact on future generations. I also must acknowledge and thank the numerous lay leaders that continue to build the spiritual muscle of our community through various ministries and small groups. The dedication and commitment of so many is evident in the steady flow of visitors and new members. St. Michael's continues to provide an alternative to the narrative being peddled throughout the Church of a shrinking and irrelevant institution.

One of the more significant things we accomplished together was the acquisition of a complete seven-volume set of *The Saint John's Bible*. As a priest, teacher, pastor, and follower of Christ, I've been inspired by the impact *The Saint John's Bible* has had in our community over the past year. I'm excited to see the ways it and our docent team will change the trajectory of St. Michael's and inspire others with the illuminated Words of God.

In 2023 we welcomed The Rev. Vicki Hesse as our interim and then full time Associate Rector. We also welcomed Ama Couch as our Communications Coordinator and Tamika Richardson as our new Sexton. Their presence has made a powerful impact, and I'm so glad they are sharing their gifts with us.

As a church on a mission to make a difference, I'm so proud of all the ways we glorify God with our lives and through the vital and varied ministries that are the backbone of St. Michael's. We continued to make investments in the varieties of ministries we offer and our campus that provides a wonderful launching platform to do the work God is calling us to do.

As your rector, it has been a spirit led journey since day one, and we've had a few surprises along the way. As I begin my fifth year of ministry at St. Michael's, I'm looking forward to a three-month summer sabbatical in 2024. This sabbatical time will provide me the opportunity to rest, renew, and reconnect. While away, rest assured that you will be in good hands with our gifted clergy team, our fantastic staff, and a talented supply priest who will be assisting this summer.

Last but not least, I am honored to serve God alongside each of you, and I look forward to the ways God will surprise us in the coming year and discerning how to faithfully respond, together!



## Associate Rector Report

The Rev. Vicki Hesse

What a joy it has been to serve with you and to share Christ within and beyond our walls. As my role evolved from “part time, interim” to “full time” ministry with St. Michael’s, my heart grew three times this season! Our ministry together and this congregation’s vitality continued to inspire me in my main areas of Pastoral Care and Outreach. I feel blessed to minister with faithful lay ministers and generous models of Christian life.

We continue to develop a rhythm of care for our congregation that is both organic and guided. This congregation naturally cares for one another while at the same time, our Care Team Committee formalized our Care Team Covenant about how we work together. We learned how Benedictine Spirituality grounds our love and care. The quarterly “learning and growing together” gatherings offered skills training and moments to check in with each other. Included under the Pastoral Care team umbrella are: Care Team members, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Care Giver Support Group, Caring Freezer cooks and meal deliverers, Widows Support Group, Grief Books ministry, and Mental Health counseling resources. Over 100 parishioners met me for one-on-one spiritual conversations over coffee, tea, walks, and for the rite of reconciliation during this last half-year. There is a deep love of God and each other that arises in these chats!

Outreach provided us all many opportunities to share Christ beyond our walls. The impulse to serve others and to fund meaningful projects made a difference in our community of Colorado Springs. As the Outreach annual report lists, many funds and donations made their way to people on the margins: people who are unhoused, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and others who are often pushed away or not seen. These ministry members and outreach partners continued to make an impact. What an honor it was to visit a half-dozen outreach ministries, building relationships and spiritual connection. This is where we meet Jesus!

Recently we have begun further conversations to expand our Social Justice ministries, including Creation Justice and Dignity Ministries. The leaders of these ministries have connected congregants with similar passions and gifts who have a hunger for making the world more equitable, just, and peaceful. These ministries inspire us all to ground our actions in our faith in Jesus Christ.

Other ways that 2023 surprised me included participating with the BeYou! Ministry, teaching and learning about *The Saint John’s Bible*, offering pet blessings on St. Francis day, teaching newcomers about the Episcopal Church, and wrestling the bulletin on a weekly basis. Ministry here at St. Michael’s gives me a glimpse of how God can make things new and how God is present in the messy interruptions, the complicated relationships seeking forgiveness, the opportunities to be graceful, and the necessity of humility. Thank you, St. Michaels, for your trust and confidence in the Holy One who draws us near, daily, and promises Love. Always, with Love.



## Deacon Report

The Rev. Gary Darress

It's been a wonderful joy and pleasure serving as St. Michael's Deacon. In 2023, I supported our mission of making Christ known within and beyond our walls in the following ways:

- Assisted with Sunday worship services.
- Proclaimed the Gospel during Sunday worship.
- Assisted the Rector, Associate Rector and other staff with tasks when needed.
- Co-facilitated a Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle with Deacon Kaye Piper/St. John the Baptist Granby, CO Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
- Co-facilitated an in-person Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle at St. Michael's, Fall 2023 – Winter 2024. (fourth Sacred Ground facilitated since 2020)
- Managed and oversaw the St. Michael's Laundry Love Ministry for the third year.
- Coordinated Kairos Prison Ministry & served as Dept of Corrections team liaison.

Laundry Love continues to be a thriving ministry that helps parishioners get proximate with our neighbors in need and those living on the margins of our community. I have fostered a relationship with West Side Cares who donated \$5000 toward this ministry. Additionally, I applied for a grant through Colorado Springs Utilities and was awarded \$2500 in support of this ministry. Laundry Love was also featured on a local new station, KOAA, as well as in The Gazette. Through this ministry I have been able to maintain a solid volunteer group of parishioners from St. Michael's who are living out their faith with what St. Paul said "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:13 (NIV). The volunteers have truly experienced the Holy Spirit in their work. Laundry Love brings those unhoused individuals into the larger Community of Christ through the interactions and relationships built with the volunteers of St. Michael's. Through this ministry, St. Michael's has also financially supported the owner of this small business by our payment for washing machine and dryer usage – a total of 59,120 quarters or \$14,780.00! We served over 2,000 guests and washed and dried 7,700 loads of laundry. This ministry also provided 1,800 PB&J sandwiches. Laundry Love truly lives out what Christ said in Matthew 25: 40-45, "The king will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

I also assisted with the organization and putting forth of a Deacon's Compensation Resolution at the Diocesan Convention which passed. I was steadfast in bringing forth to Bishop Kym the need to talk about Gun Violence Prevention which has impacted not only our city but also this country. I am facilitating a diocesan group working on this topic monthly with various members throughout the Diocese. I am also co-facilitating, along with The Rev. Vicki Hesse, a group of parishioners from St. Michael's concerning how GVP has affected our parish. I continue my prison ministry through Kairos Prison Ministry International serving the male inmates at Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility in Canon City, CO. I am currently the team liaison with the Dept of Corrections. I continue to maintain my affiliation with the Franciscan Order of the Divine Compassion as an Oblate.



## Senior Warden Report

Russ Howell

From the perspective of your Senior Warden, 2023 has been an exciting and productive one for St. Michael's. Your Vestry and Wardens have been fully engaged on numerous fronts as your elected representatives, and I would like to share several key initiatives.

First, after much work by the Finance Committee, a comprehensive Investment Strategy Policy was drafted, adopted by the Endowment Committee, and approved by the Vestry. We are very pleased with the final product. To my knowledge, our church has not had one before, and we believe this new policy will enable us to be better stewards of the monetary treasures that have been donated. As part of that policy, we have engaged the services of an Investment Advisor with whom our Investment Team will interact on a periodic basis to monitor performance. And in that regard, we won't hesitate to make further changes to the policy when justified.

Second, we were thrilled to receive the wonderful gift of the entire set of the hand-illuminated *Saint John's Bible*, and we were thrilled with the results of the Illuminating Our Faith Fundraiser which enabled us to house and protect these treasures.

Third, I am pleased to announce that we now have a Youth Delegate that attends Vestry meetings. While not a voting Vestry member, we are eager to get her perspective and input on youth matters. After all, our youth have significant energy and represent the future!

Fourth, each Vestry member is now volunteering on Sundays as a Vestry Person of the Day, or VPOD as we call it, to assist clergy and others and address problems as they surface. This is in addition to their other duties on the Vestry including monthly and special meetings along with liaison reports and other project work. I just wanted you to know that you elected a very faithful and dedicated group to serve you.

Fifth, the Vestry and the Rector participated in a Mutual Ministry Review led by the The Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass, Canon for Transition and Wellness from the Bishop's office. It was an opportunity for the Vestry and Rector to reflect on how they are sharing the work God has called us to do. The recommendations we received after the experience were insightful.

Sixth, St. Michael's received a one-time distribution of funds as part of the sale of the Colorado Springs Thrift House. Additional distributions may be forthcoming and will be included. The St. Michael's Vestry determined it will use the annual earnings from these funds toward outreach ministries as a supplement to budgeted amounts. This outreach fund or endowment is governed by the Investment Strategy Policy described above.

Finally, though your wardens and Vestry have tirelessly supported your Rector, we knew more was needed and approved a budget item for sabbaticals. That, along with some other gifts we have received for that purpose, will allow our Rector to take a much-needed break and restore himself. I could go on with more details about 2023, but I think you get the idea. It has been an honor serving you this past year.



## Junior Warden Report

Mike Mapes & Danny Raider

In 2023, the St. Michael's bylaws were amended to allow for two junior wardens. This allowed many more projects to be completed with the junior wardens working together on some and working independently on others.

In the Multipurpose Room, the walls were painted, new light fixtures were installed along with new ceiling fans, new carpet installed, and new AV equipment added to provide for more flexible use of the space.

The construction on two new showers was completed in what was the old nursery. Each of the showers is designed to be used by handicapped persons when needed. In addition to the tile walls and floors in the showers, the remainder of the room has been painted and updated with new lighting.

Much work was done to prepare for *The Saint John's Bible* displays in the common area. A fire extinguisher cabinet was moved around the corner, the walls were textured and painted, the carpet was cleaned, the lighting was upgraded to highlight the displays. Additional security cameras were installed to provide improved coverage of the displays, and additional motion sensors were added to the alarm system to better protect the displays.

Overall security at St. Michael's has been improved with the addition of several new cipher locks on doors, upgrading some existing motions sensors, and adding security cameras in the buildings. We worked with others in the parish to apply for a grant from the Colorado Department of Homeland Security to further upgrade our security. The grant was approved for \$39,000. The work on the new security projects funded by the grant will begin in 2024.

Much work was completed on the exterior campus landscaping. Bushes were removed by the Columbarium, the outdoor sprinkler system was improved, and several tons of rock were installed along with weed barriers. Additionally a spotlight was added to better highlight the cross at the front entrance.

In addition to the normal maintenance of replacing light fixtures, repairing plumbing, repairing doors, and snow shoveling, annual required inspections were completed for the fire sprinkler system, the back flow preventers, the fire extinguishers, the elevator, and the fire alarm system.

We would like to thank the dozens of parishioners who assisted on some projects, completed others on their own, and those who provided funding for many. Our appreciation also extends to the numerous staff members who provided input on the design of projects, assisted with working on projects and adjusted locations and schedules to facilitate work being done in many areas of the buildings.





## **Newcomer & Membership Report**

Linda Kean

St. Michael's continued to grow with new people entering our doors weekly. Newcomers express interest in St. Michael's due to the welcome they receive and the many opportunities in which they can engage. Of the 173 recorded new visitors that came to St. Michael's in 2023, 70 continued to attend and requested a name tag, and 54 became new members of St. Michael's. Overall, there were 76 new members for 2023 (that means that 22 of those 76 new members were already attending prior to 2023). The "Let's Get Connected" classes (Episcopal Church 101; Who We Are at St. Michael's & Campus Tour; and Get Connect & Involved) continued in 2023, with 10 classes and 45 different individuals attending those classes.

We held two Newcomer Luncheons in 2023, with 62 people in attendance. We also had one New Member Dinner, with 38 in attendance. Staff also attend these events to provide the opportunity for newcomers to get to know them. We continue having a member of the Vestry deliver a Welcome Bag that includes a loaf of bread, made by parishioners, to newcomers. In 2023, there were 70 bags delivered to those who requested a name tag and became active non-members. As mentioned above, 54 of those 70 became new members. According to our database, Breeze, we have 645 active members and 250 active non-members. Again, as always, we ask that everyone wear their name tags so we can get to know one another. If you do not have a name tag, you can either request one or use a temporary name tag available at the welcome table.



## Music Report

Amalia Dobbins

I feel continually blessed by the work I have been called to do in our beautiful church. Your overwhelming love and support of our music program has allowed it to flourish in ways we could not have imagined a few years ago. Let's continue to keep music relevant and dynamic in the years to come!

### ***2023 Music Highlights***

- Lessons & Carols on Jan. 1
- Simply Gorgeous! Concert on Feb. 25 with Royal Gorge Philharmonic & Daniel Foster
- Monmouth College Chorale Concert on March 7
- Holy Week highlights
  - Palm Sunday with Amy Mushall on Apr. 2
  - Maundy Thursday service with string trio on Apr. 6
  - Good Friday service with dramatic reading on Apr. 7
  - Easter Vigil with chanted Exultet on Apr. 8
  - Easter Sunday services with brass quartet on Apr. 9
- Interdenominational Festival Chorus presented "The Gift of Life" by John Rutter on Earth Day with combined choirs of FUMC, First Lutheran, St. Michael's, Grace & St. Stephens on Apr. 22
- Children & Youth Sunday on Apr. 30 & Nov. 5 featured talented soloists and Cherub Choir
- Ascension Day Evensong on May 18
- Summer Yoga + Lunch
- Celebration of Ministry, The Rev. Angela Lerena on July 7
- Vespers in the Garden on July 13
- Creative Arts Sunday on August 13, featuring J. Chang-Tablada
- Colorado Rockies Faith Day game and Hillsong United concert on Aug. 20
- *The Saint John's Bible* Dedication on Sept. 29
- Handbell Choir on Easter, Oct. 15 & Dec. 10
- As Foretold with Air Force Academy Cadet Chorale & Royal Gorge Philharmonic Nov. 18
- Elf The Musical field trip to the Fine Arts Center on Dec. 6
- Blue Christmas service on Dec. 14
- Annual Christmas Pageant on Dec. 17
- Shine Bright! Free Christmas Show with J. Chang-Tablada on Dec. 23
- Christmas Eve services with Brass quartet, organ, soloists, youth musicians, choir, recorder, and vocal trio on Dec. 24
- Service for a New Year with *The Saint John's Bible* on Dec. 31



### ***Organ report from Daniel Foster:***

During the 2023 year, we focused on some finalization of the Opus organ upgrade and general maintenance of the organ. While the majority of the Opus system was finalized in 2022, it takes time playing and working with the organ to determine if there are lags in the system or functionalities that seemed to work but aren't really working. This year, we found that there were a couple of functions that were mapped to the system but were not actually engaging. John Grunow was able to map this out and determine that we needed to replace two computer boards and run an update of the software to correct the issues we were having.

Another major project we undertook with the organ was the repair of the swell shade motors and computers. Since my arrival, I've noticed there was a lot of noise when the swell shades were opened and closed. Roman and Richard Uskovits began looking into the noise and found that one of the motors was hanging up inside and then when it released would create a lot of noise forcing the shutters to close. While in the midst of that occurrence, one of the computers that controlled the other half of the shutters stopped functioning altogether. Richard and Roman removed most of the pipes from under the swell shutters and motors, removed the computers, and took them back to the workshop for a full overhaul. The two motors were both cleaned, repaired, and small parts replaced. The computers were cleaned out and one was found to no longer work. The computer unit was replaced, the motors were reinstalled, and the swell has been 100% functional since the repair with much less noise.

One of my major contributions to the planning of weekly services is the organ prelude and postlude. I am often asked how I plan them. Generally, I follow the same guidelines for planning the hymns and anthems for the week. I look at the readings, I look at the music Amalia has chosen for the service, and I look at general recommendations. From there I typically determine the best fit for that week. Sometimes, there are very obvious choices, such as Bach's *Wachet Auf*, which every organist across the United States plays for Advent 1. Other times, there are not many good settings for what I'm looking for. I typically try and stay within the structure of what's happening that week but if there are no good options, then I'll find something that seems to fit well into the service.

### ***Handbell report from MaryDee Weigel:***

The commitment to play handbells is not taken lightly. We have several volunteers who give their time and talent to this musical instrument. The choice of music is given thought in relation to the liturgical calendar, the players' abilities, and the number of bell octaves we have. Rehearsals take place on Sundays for 1-2 hours and start several weeks prior to the Sunday we are to play. The bells usually play two pieces at both services.



## **Children, Youth, Family, and Young Adult Report**

Owen Copps

In 2023, our Children, Youth, & Young Adult ministries built on the momentum of 2022 with a particular focus on getting beyond the walls of St. Michael's Episcopal Church.

### ***Children & Family Ministry:***

Our emphasis in 2023 was to better equip families to have faithful conversations and create faithful practices in their homes. We did this by reframing Sunday mornings as a “faith launching point,” for families to then go out into the world and engage with their faith every day. This focus was propelled in three principal ways. First was the continued growth of our monthly Parenting Small Group which meets to accompany and encourage fellow parents. Second was the creation of “Family Sunday School.” This is a once a month offering in which the whole family comes to Sunday School to learn, share, and engage with faith concepts together. Third was our Sunday School Curriculum, “Beyond Sunday Mornings” which equipped our children to look for God and the Gospel in their everyday lives. Following each lesson, our children took car ride questions as well as a mealtime grace with them to continue to engage with the material throughout the week. These offerings ran alongside Children's Chapel, which continues to be our staple children's program in which we see 12 or more elementary schoolers a week, as well as our Nursery, in which our talented nursery team cares for around 8 children each week. In addition, we were able to offer family movie nights; two Children & Youth Sundays in which our children sung, were acolytes, and otherwise served in worship; Vacation Bible School with our friends at FUMC Prairie Campus which served 30 children and engaged 13 youth volunteers; a Switchbacks Game; Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat with a Chili Cook-Off; as well as a Parish Retreat & Family Camp which 84 people from St. Michael's attended at YMCA of the Rockies.

### ***Youth Ministry:***

Our Youth Ministry began to focus beyond our walls this year as well. With the solidification of our Wednesday Night Youth Group at which 17 or more middle & high schoolers attend each week, as well as the strength of our 11 person high school youth council, we were able to be creative and innovative in the ways we did youth ministry. Our Youth Council helped launch “BeYou!” an offering comprised of 9 different welcoming and inclusive churches in Colorado Springs that served 20-30 youth at each monthly gathering. We had 14 students engage in diocesan service days at Project CURE and St. Clare's ministry. We expanded our overnight offerings, with our high schoolers camping in the Sand Dunes in the spring, and spending time at Rainbow Trail in the fall. Our middle schoolers participated in Diocesan Retreats including QUEST and a Lock-In at St. John's Cathedral. Together, 18 of our middle & high schoolers went skiing at Monarch in January, and 4 of our high schoolers went on weeklong Summer Trips to Kansas City and Maryland. We launched a new offering for youth Sunday School, titled “Disciples & Dragons,” that expanded the number of youth we see during the formation hour on Sunday mornings. Our programs hosted at St. Michael's even reached beyond our walls as well. We accompanied 5 high schoolers through confirmation class this spring, with two of them belonging to other faith communities. At our Wednesday night Youth Groups, 5 of our regular participants have families who either belong to different faith communities or no faith community at all. This is a testament to the ways in which our young people are not only being invitational, but also welcoming when new friends walk through the doors of St. Mike's. Lastly, our youth came together this fall to host a fundraiser in which over 60 people attended and over \$8,000 was generously raised.



### ***Young Adults:***

The beyond our walls focus of our young adults always starts with our college students. In 2023 we sent 41 finals care packages between the spring and winter semesters to our students in college to remind them that wherever they are, they are loved by us at St. Mike's and they always have a home here. This program garnered enough interest that funding was allocated by the diocese to financially support parishes that choose to send college finals care packages, and we were awarded \$300 this winter to assist us in sending these packages. For our local young adults, our programming continued to morph and change. In the spring, we hosted a couple of Theology on Tap events that engaged not only St. Mike's young adults but also young adults from Lutheran, Methodist, and other Episcopal Churches. This fall, we formalized this program with monthly Theology on Tap events at Goat Patch Brewing with conversations hosted by faith leaders in our community, including UCC theologian Mason Mennenga, Rev. Joanne Sanders, First Lutheran's Michaela Eskew, and Rev. Kelsey Fauser from Grace Lutheran. These ecumenical gatherings were in partnership with Gather: Pikes Peak with whom we hosted other events as well, including monthly meetings at First Lutheran, a Rocky Mountain Vibes game, Friendsgiving, Spooky Halloween Painting, and volunteering at Pikes Peak Pride.

I am incredibly grateful for the blessing it is to walk with and minister to the children, youth, young adults, and families of St. Michael's. I would like to especially thank our amazing volunteer and nursery teams who support, lead, and make all our programs and events happen.



## Outreach Report

Susan Futey

The generosity of St. Michael's continues to make a significant impact with our Outreach Partners and the thousands of individuals in our community who rely on your support. The Outreach Committee is grateful for all the donations and the amazing work we are able to do because of you!

In 2023, our In-Kind Donation Value exceeded \$30,700. During the 40 Days of Giving, our Lent Donation Drive, 140 bags at \$75 each were collected plus \$600 in gift cards. This came to a total of \$11,100. In the fall, we collected 90 backpacks at \$75 each plus \$300 in gift cards to reach a total to \$7,050 in donations. We also collected \$1,000 in winter mittens, gloves, and hats. The Thanksgiving gift cards came to a total of \$750 and the Thanksgiving food totaled \$5,800. (65 turkeys x \$20 = \$1,300; plus 90 meal bags x \$50 = \$4,500) Our Christmas Light Festival toys collection equaled \$500 and canned goods collected came to \$4,500. We look forward to growing and giving more in 2024.

Over the past several years the Outreach budget has gradually increased. In 2023, we contributed \$82,800 to the Diocese of Colorado and the Sangre de Cristo Region, and we awarded \$29,000 in Outreach Grants to partners as detailed below:

Partners in Housing	\$4,000	<b><u>Donations Drives in 2023</u></b>	
Care and Share Food Bank	\$3,500	40 Days of Giving in Lent	
Laundry Love	\$3,000	Laundry Love Quarters	
The Lord's Dinner	\$3,000	Backpack & School Supply Drive	
Mercy's Gate	\$3,000	Mittens, Gloves, & Hat Drive	
Inside Out	\$2,000	Thanksgiving Food Drive	
West Side Cares	\$2,000	Christmas Light Festival Toys & Food	
Kairos Prison Ministry	\$1,500		
Spiritual Journey	\$1,500		
ASD20 Family Resource Center	\$1,000	In-kind Donation Value	\$30,700
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$1,000	Outreach Budget 2023	\$117,915
Hope is Alive	\$1,000	<b>Total 2023 Outreach Impact</b>	<b>\$148,615</b>
We Fortify	\$1,000		
Creation Care	\$700		
TESSA	\$500	Outreach Impact over the past 3 years	
Flat Tire Fund / Partners in Housing	\$200	2021	\$128,840
Hats & Mittens	\$100	2022	\$139,400
<b>Total Grants Distributed in 2023</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	2023	\$148,615

Thank you for helping us making a difference beyond our walls!



## Pastoral Care Report

Rich Page, Bev Raider, & The Rev. Vicki Hesse

Pastoral care took many forms at St. Michael's in 2023. Our clergy team met with numerous parishioners to provide counseling, conduct hospital and home visits, and provide other professional resources for parishioners in need of care. Over \$6,500 was spent from clergy discretionary funds and the Mental Health Assistance Fund to provide professional counseling in 2023.

Our **Care Team** is composed of 20 parishioners who provide support to members of the congregation who may be ill or going through other difficult times. They regularly visit senior care facilities to keep in touch with those who are unable to attend services in person. In 2023, Care Team assisted 55 individuals/families with meals and/or visits, providing 85 meals and making 155 visits. Many additional parishioners assist the Care Team on a case-by-case basis. The **Caring Freezer** provides an opportunity for parishioners to support this effort by bringing meals to the church to be kept in the freezer until needed.

**Lay Eucharistic Visitors or LEVs** take communion to those who are home-bound, supporting a key spiritual connection with those parishioners. In 2023, our 12 LEVs regularly took communion to 12 parishioners. The fourteen members of the **Daughters of the King (DOK)** prayed daily for the needs of parishioners and others who requested prayers. They received prayer requests via the website, in person, and through pew cards. In addition, they sent out over 18 birthday, anniversary, and wellness cards each month. They provided toiletries to people coming to Laundry Love and gift baskets of personal items to IHN families, as well as annual gift bags for home-bound parishioners.

Our pastoral care efforts include several support groups. Our **Care Giver Support Group** has 12 members currently. The group provides mutual support to members who are the primary care giver for a loved one. Similarly, the **Widow's Support Group** has 20 members who meet to help each other in difficult times. In a related area, St. Michael's sends **Grief Books** to those who have lost loved ones. The books are sent every few months in the first year after the loss. These books were sent out to 24 individuals/families in 2023.

Our clergy conduct **Healing Services** every Wednesday during the year. An average of six persons per week join together for prayers. Our **Pastoral Care Team** meets monthly to review the needs of the congregation and the activities of our various ministries, monitoring the various prayer lists. Over 100 people are currently on our prayer lists including DOK, Sunday bulletin prayers, clergy prayers, and others.

During 2023, our First Aid **Mental Health** Trainer-in-Residence, David Galvan, was honored as the Mental Health First Aid Instructor of the Year by Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council. We are blessed by David's gifts in this area that he generously offers to St. Michael's. He has supported our congregation in acute situations and helped make longer term plans for people seeking mental health resources in our area. In addition, the Soul Shop course was offered to 37 adults representing 9 different local churches/organizations. We also offered several Sunday Forum conversations specifically addressing mental health, how we care for others, and self-care.

*If you would like to participate in any aspect of the Pastoral Care Team, please reach out to Bev Raider or Rich Page. If you seek pastoral support, please reach out to Rev. Vicki Hesse.*





## Adult Formation Report

Clergy, Staff, and Lay Leaders

An investment of resources and gifted lay leaders have helped ensure St. Michael's can offer a variety of Adult Formation opportunities throughout the year. Below are some of the highlights.

**The Well**, *a place of nourishment for one's spiritual journey and well-being*, has inspired a full and meaningful year of engagement and support. This has been accomplished through reflective, meditative, and creative environments in two day-long retreats during Advent and Lent, small groups that explore more deeply our faith, purpose and questions (Being With, Light for the Journey, Spirituality of Aging), engaging the arts in our understanding of spirituality, creativity and deepening our relationship with God (Creative Arts Festival; Creativity, Spirituality and the Artist's Way; Creating Space; Art and Theology), spiritual direction and companionship, and contemplative practices (Lectio Divina, Contemplative Prayer). *The Well* and its imagining team are deeply grateful to witness our primary purpose at work, enlivening and inviting the St Michael's community and beyond, including seekers, believers, wanderers and wonder-ers, to deepen their experiences of God/Divine within themselves and in the world. We've been truly inspired by the hearing and telling of one another's stories through connection, inclusion and belonging.

**The Saint John's Bible** (SJB) has provided a wealth of opportunities to make ourselves known within and outside the walls of St. Michael's. So far over 30 docents have been trained and are available to lead in-depth experiences with the SJB. Since the initial introduction of *The Saint John's Bible* in February 2023, our docents have shared their acquired knowledge with 52 individuals and groups...an average of one per week! That is a pretty impressive statistic, considering many at St. Michael's hadn't heard of the SJB one year ago.

**Sunday Forums** at St. Michael's provided a regular formation opportunity for adults between Sunday worship services throughout the program year. Special guests included David Galvan, Jeanne Wickham, and Jenny Beaumont. We covered an array of topics that included Mental Wellness, Spiritual Gifts, Spiritual Practices, Listening to the Spirit, a Virtual Pilgrimage, Art & Theology, *The Saint John's Bible*, Outreach, and several intergenerational experiences during Advent – Adopt a Nativity, Advent Festival, and a Sense-ational Journey to Bethlehem.

Creation Justice offered two unique small group experiences using the Just Faith Curriculum. Both **Sacred Water** and **Sacred Air** were full and provided parishioners an opportunity to learn more about how to faithfully respond to God's creation and use its resources wisely.

Other small groups that were offered in 2023 included Gather (an ecumenical fellowship for young adults), two **Space Between Us** (communication skills) classes, monthly **Newcomers Class**, **Saturday Men's Group**, the **Episcopal Essentials**, **Wednesday Bible Study**, **Pilgrimage Bible Study**, and a **Sacred Ground** (race & racism) discussion group.





## Fellowship & Parish Life Report

Jennie Wandfluh

We take our fellowship very seriously at St. Michaels. In 2023, we created opportunities for groups of all ages to gather, both virtually and in person, for a variety of other shared interests. In January, we focused on mental health, plus CPR training to support our healthy start to the new year. The 40s & 50s fellowship group gathered momentum, while both SMASH and the 20s & 30s fellowship groups continued to thrive. Scouts were recognized on the annual Scout Sunday, just before the start of lent. February snowstorms have a way of changing plans, so the Valentine's Day pasta potluck dinner was not actually held on Valentine's Day, but was still delicious and enjoyed by all... a week later. As per tradition, St. Michael's hosted a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, followed by soup suppers every Wednesday through Lent. Father Paul Lautenschlager (Rector, 2001-2012) hosted a luncheon for retired clergy and celebrated his 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood. March also gave us an excuse for a St. Patrick's Day Fish Fry, hosted by the amazing BBQ Ministry. Palm Sunday Brunch was a massive undertaking, as volunteers cracked over 40 dozen eggs to make egg casseroles for hundreds of parishioners. Perhaps more impressively, "Donut Easter" involved a mountain of Krispy Kremes and may go down as the sweetest in St. Michael's history.

Spring cleaning at St. Michael's was a team event - with indoor and outdoor workdays, a full dumpster of trash and hundreds of donated items. Co-Ed Softball was our actual team event, proudly featuring players ranging in age from 18 to 84. Our most senior population, those over 90, were treated to a very special luncheon in May, where clergy served them their meal. Pentecost marked the start of our outdoor worship and parish picnics. In June, we shared God's love through our tent at Pride Festival, as St. Michael's is one of several "Actually Affirming" churches who welcome and love LGBTQ people. In July, we gathered for a celebration of ministry honoring the Reverend Angela Lerena as her time with us ended. Vespers in the Garden was born, a special evening where newcomers and others gathered for food, fellowship, and sunset worship. Another new event, the Purple Tea Party, created a safe space for discussing dementia awareness. As August began with Family Camp in Estes Park, we still had events like Rib-a-Palooza, the Creative Arts Festival and Faith Day at the Rockies to look forward to before Fall.

September in Colorado is breathtaking, the perfect time for St. Michael's annual Golf Tournament. We also gathered for an exciting Switchback's game and hosted a massively successful fundraiser to support our Youth Programs. In 2023, September will always be remembered for the monumental introduction of our new *Saint John's Bible* to its permanent home. We held a fabulous dedication ceremony and reception to mark the occasion, also serving as the kickoff for St. Michael's weekend, which offered multiple service opportunities and culminated with a Food Truck Festival on Sunday. The BBQ Ministry hosted a memorable Oktoberfest celebration and families enjoyed an equally riotous night at our combined Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat! Pumpkins were carved, chili was devoured, and Father Matt was pined in the face to raise money for Laundry Love. As Thanksgiving arrived, dozens of parishioners chose to share the day together with a delicious potluck dinner. This little thing we do called the Christmas Light Festival takes center stage in late November. It required over a hundred volunteers working together to create this experience for the thousands of guests who came through the Light Festival in 2023. In Advent, St. Michael's staff worked together to curate events such as Advent Festival, Sense-ational Journey to Bethlehem, Adopt-a-Nativity and the Nativity Pageant. What a blessed, joyous year it was, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity alongside sooooo many incredible and talented volunteers!



## Digital Ministry Report

Rachel Stoller

The St. Michael's Digital Ministry has continued to make its impact year over year. Broadcasting weekly on both Facebook and YouTube, we had an average online attendance of 169 people per week in 2023. This is in addition to in-person attendance. YouTube is our primary channel, gaining 135 subscribers and having nearly 12,000 total views in 2023, which is a 14% increase over 2022 on one platform alone! Over the past year, we not only continued to livestream the weekly 10:30 AM service and the weekly Sunday Forum, but we also livestreamed special services such as Blue Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the service for the dedication of *The Saint John's Bible*.

Our team continued to support weddings and funerals by request and broadcasted special events hosted by St. Michael's such as the Monmouth College Chorale and the Royal Gorge Philharmonic concerts. This allowed St. Michael's parishioners to share in the excitement of what is happening here with friends and family near and far. It also offered the opportunity for newcomers to check us out and feel comfortable with us prior to their first visit. This amazing group of volunteers is dedicated to supporting the mission of St. Michael's to make Christ known within and beyond our walls. We are always looking for new members who want to showcase their talents or explore an interest. All are welcome regardless of experience. Please feel free to stop by the AVL booth any Sunday to check us out!



## Communications Report

Ama Couch

After helping with communications in a volunteer capacity, I officially joined the staff on July 1, 2023. In conjunction with Diane on bulletins, Matt, and other clergy/staff members, I work to plan, create, and disseminate effective, complete information messaging and strategies to the congregation and to the community at large. Additionally, I support church and ministry leaders in conveying their vision, priorities, and activities to appropriate audiences.

The primary ways we accomplished this in 2023 were through the following:

- Creating and delivering the Weekly eNews to our 775 subscribers' inboxes every Friday morning. If you aren't receiving these and would like to, click the "join our email list" link at the bottom of the website homepage or email [comm@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:comm@stmikeschurch.com).
- Publishing the bi-monthly Archangel Newsletter. January-February was mailed in early January, and the latest edition can always be viewed at [www.stmikeschurch.com/publications](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/publications).
- Utilizing the online Sign-Up Genius tool for additional event communications and registration.
- Updating and maintaining the St. Michael's Website ([www.stmikeschurch.com](http://www.stmikeschurch.com)).
- Creating frequent Social Media posts on Facebook and Instagram of past church events with pictures as well as upcoming activities. You don't have to have a Facebook account to access these posts at [www.facebook.com/stmikeschurchCOS](http://www.facebook.com/stmikeschurchCOS).
- Producing comprehensive Church Bulletins (created by Diane Dennison).

It has been a blessing and a joy to serve in this capacity, and I look forward to keeping you informed of all that is going on within and beyond the walls at St. Mike's!



## **Endowment Funds Report**

Steve Caruthers

### ***St. Michael's Endowment Fund***

The St. Michael's Endowment Fund was valued at \$234,449.58 as of December 31, 2022. Activity during the year included donations totaling \$1,465.96, Income Dividends totaling \$5817.99, and Short-Term and Long-Term Capital Gains totaling \$8,287.79 for an Ending Balance on December 31, 2023, of \$276,188.95. Net of these transactions, the Endowment Fund overall increased \$41,739.37, or 17.8% during the year. All funds are currently invested in the Vanguard STAR Fund, a "fund of funds" comprising selections from Vanguard's menu of low-expense mutual funds.

As of December 31, 2023, we have 17 confirmed members/families of St. Michael's Legacy. To learn more about making a lasting contribution, go to [www.stmikeschurch.com/legacy](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/legacy) or contact Steve Caruthers.

### ***Outreach Endowment Fund***

In 2023, after serving our community for over 50 years, The Board of The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Thrift House made the difficult decision to close and sell the property. The profits from the sale of the building were mostly divided among the three primary Episcopal churches in Colorado Springs that founded and supported The Thrift House (St. Michael's, Grace & St. Stephens, & Chapel of our Savior). St. Michael's received \$190,000 in 2023 from the sale of the property and the Vestry voted to use these funds with encouragement from the Thrift House Board, to establish The St. Michael's Episcopal Church Outreach Endowment Fund. The funds were invested in a short-term CD which resulted in an additional \$1,123.26 in income. In addition, an end of year gift was made by a parishioner in the amount of \$68,899.65. As a result, the current balance of The St. Michael's Episcopal Church Outreach Endowment Fund is \$260,022.91. In 2024, the Vestry will be working to establish bylaws for this newly created Outreach Endowment which will provide St. Michael's the discretion to use a specified earned interest to further support our Outreach Partners in Ministry.



## Financial Report

Jan McLaughlin, Finance Manager; Chris Couch, Treasurer

St Michael's continues to be in a solid financial position. We have no debt and based on the continued financial faithfulness of our congregation, we completed 2023 on budget with a small amount of additional net income.

The annual audit was completed by McMillen & Company in the Spring of 2023 with no major issues.

The 2024 budget has been approved by the Vestry, and it is based on a 9.2% increase from last year.

### 2024 Stewardship

242 Pledging Units

- 45 New Pledges
- 100 Increased Pledges
- 27 Decreased Pledges
- 67 Same Amount

**Total Pledged \$865,926** (*as of January 25, 2024*)

In December 2023, the vestry approved and adopted our St Michael's Investment Policy which was drafted by the Finance committee. The policy defines the philosophy, guidelines, and investment objectives for the church's money. The Vestry also approved naming JP Morgan as our Financial Advisor, and our investment accounts are in the process of getting set up there.

### 2024 Approved Budget

<b>Income</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Pledges	755,000	850,000
Other Income	92,000	81,100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>847,000</b>	<b>931,000</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
Outreach	112,800	125,500
Worship	6,750	4,450
Music	9,750	11,250
Formation	8,500	10,750
Fellowship	17,400	17,500
Property	57,050	55,800
Office Expenses	16,000	18,000
Business Expenses	53,900	66,100
Salaries	429,182	478,990
Benefits	114,272	111,312
Staff Support	21,396	31,448
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>847,000</b>	<b>931,100</b>



## Available Funds as of December 31, 2023

### Cash:

Chase Operating	144,727.91	
Petty Cash	400.00	
Chase Savings	36,007.62	
Chase Savings 2	9,535.86	
Chase CD-A	125,000.00	
Chase CD-B	100,000.00	
Chase CD-C	150,000.00	
Laundry Love	9,303.05	
Less Liability:		
Prepaid Pledges	(61,705.12)	
Credit Card	(26,065.15)	
Accounts Payable	(11,631.41)	
403B Payable	(1,444.19)	
Sales Tax Payable	(64.86)	
<b>Total Cash Available</b>		<b>474,063.71</b>

### Reserves for Designated Funds

33300 Restricted Funds Balance	154,676.33	
33385 Pass Thru Donations		
33400 Scholarship Fund	9,166.21	
33500 General Endowment Fund	276,188.95	
33501 Outreach Endowment Fund	190,000.00	
33600 Rector Discretionary Fund	4,461.64	
33625 Deacon Discretionary Fund	4,131.42	
33650 Associate Rector Discretionary Fund	2,950.11	
33677 Mental Health Fund	2,950.11	
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>644,484.09</b>	

Less Investment/Checking		
Scholarship Mutual Fund	(9,166.21)	
Endowment Mutual Fund	(276,188.95)	

**Net Reserves for Designated Accounts** **359,128.93**

Net Cash Available 114,934.78

Minimum Balance Required 100,000.00

**Cash Available** **14,934.78**



## Statement of Activity January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

<b>Income</b>	<b>2023 Budgeted</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>
Pledges	755,000.00	796,773.28
Non-Pledge Contributions	47,000.00	69,099.51
Special Offerings	3,000.00	4,879.01
Non-Offering Income	18,495.03	12,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>846,000.00</b>	<b>916,710.75</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Diocesan Pledges	82,800.00	89,328.30
Outreach Ministries	30,000.00	30,943.48
Worship Expenses	6,750.00	9,215.27
Music Expenses	9,750.00	12,093.05
Formation	8,500.00	12,088.84
Fellowship	17,400.00	34,739.56
Church Property	52,250.00	59,394.24
Rectory	4,800.00	4,470.45
Office Administration	16,000.00	25,943.93
Business Related Expenses	53,900.00	67,852.94
Staff Salaries	429,182.00	415,501.62
Compensation Benefits	114,363.00	107,870.51
Staff Support	21,300.00	35,637.64
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>846,995.00</b>	<b>905,079.83</b>
Costs of Goods Sold		2,984.27
Interest Income	1,000.00	743.26
Unrealized Gain/Loss on Investments		315.33
Realized Gain/Loss on Investments		6,730.33
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>7,788.92</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>16,435.57</b>



## Balance Sheet December 31, 2023

<b>Assets</b>	<b>As of 12/31/2022</b>	<b>As of 12/31/2023</b>
Total Bank Accounts	614,920.81	860,329.60
Total Other Assets	129.15	3,741.10
Total Current Assets	615,049.96	846,070.70
Total Fixed Assets	1,272,341.38	1,272,341.38
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,887,391.34</b>	<b>2,136,412.08</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		
Opening Balance Equity	1,789,270.37	1,789,270.37
Operating Fund Balance	(424,268.79)	(414,649.55)
Prepaid Pledges, Credit Card, 403b, etc.	75,248.12	100,871.60
Columbarium, Pavers, Pets	14,312.32	16,413.32
Organ Upgrade	-	70.00
BBQ Ministry	1,741.99	1,422.09
Birthday Fund	431.68	431.68
Daughters of the King	315.14	739.14
Ellis Music Fund	3,573.61	5,082.51
Kitchen Fund	5,068.07	5,292.08
Shower Fund	63,724.14	-
Memorials	11,746.14	12,657.05
Nursery Fund	1,350.43	3,350.43
Outreach Savings	1,472.99	1,472.99
Lord's Dinner Reserve	761.20	761.20
Funeral Fund	1,522.42	1,803.56
The Well	504.71	514.97
St. Bedes Bookstore	(801.43)	(473.59)
Care Teams Fund	165.05	97.65
Youth Events Fund	2,248.37	13,012.31
Youth Pastoral Fund	2,495.41	2,266.52
Parish Growth Fund	6,237.63	264.87
Saint John's Bible	-	16,428.76
Beyond our Walls Fund	9,709.10	-
Conference Room Renovation	-	1,000.00
Parish Hall Renovation	-	1,478.22
AVL	-	1,000.00
Vestry Fund	40,031.70	49,031.70
Scout Fund	3,002.02	2,866.25
Mental Health Fund	3,420.07	7,905.07
Laundry Love	4,450.05	9,303.05
Pilgrimage Fund	4,605.20	484.50
Scholarship Fund	11,034.35	9,166.21
Endowment Fund	234,449.58	276,188.95
Outreach Endowment	-	190,000.00
Rector's Discretionary Fund	2,142.23	4,461.64
Deacon's Discretionary Fund	3,564.34	4,131.42
Associate Rector's Discretionary Fund	742.33	2,909.43
Mental Health Program Development	3,500.00	2,950.11
Net Income	9,619.42	16,435.57
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>1,887,389.96</b>	<b>2,136,412.08</b>