



St. Michael's  
Episcopal Church  
COLORADO SPRINGS

# The Archangel

Newsletter  
& Events

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR WALLS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024

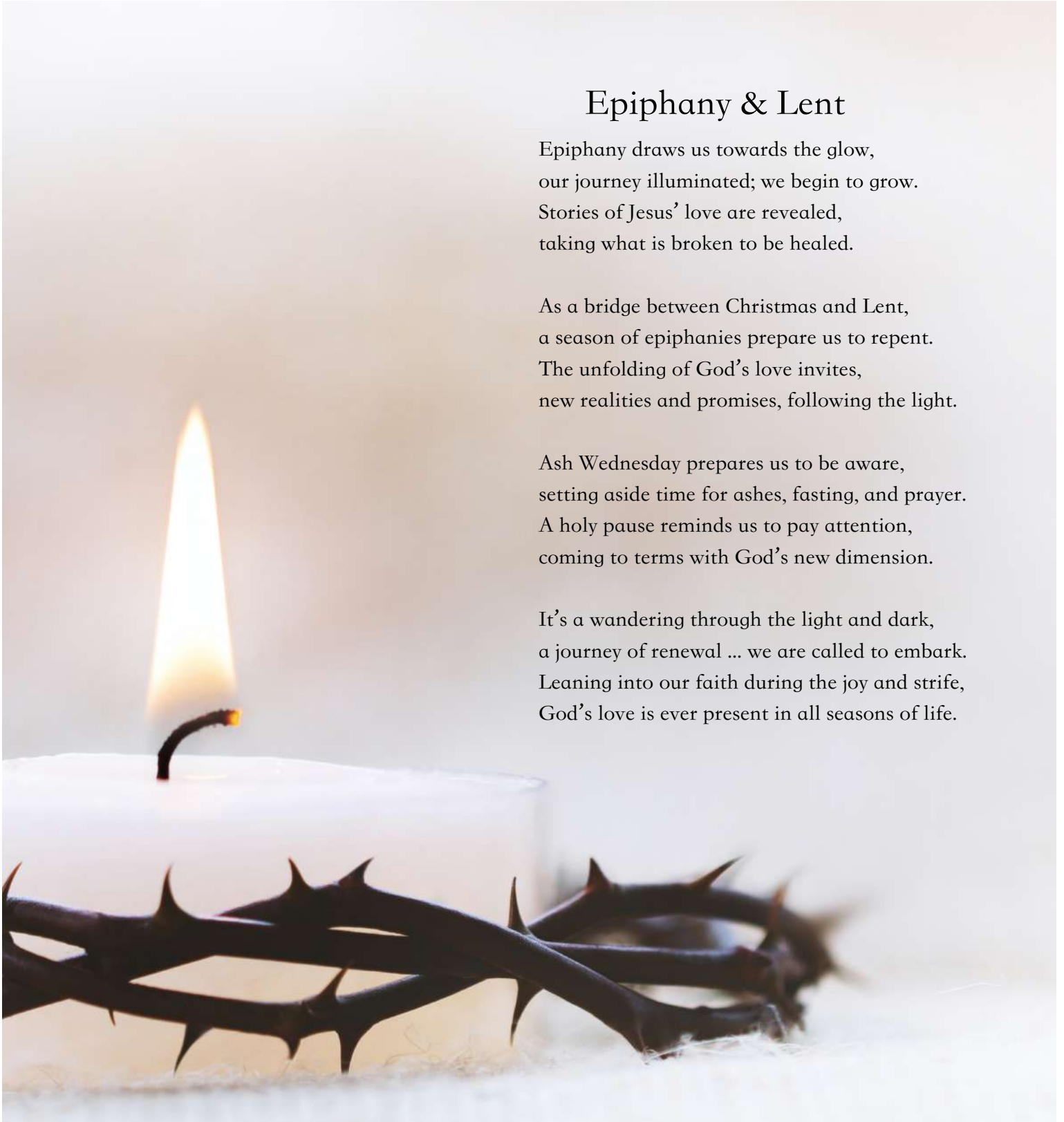
## Epiphany & Lent

Epiphany draws us towards the glow,  
our journey illuminated; we begin to grow.  
Stories of Jesus' love are revealed,  
taking what is broken to be healed.

As a bridge between Christmas and Lent,  
a season of epiphanies prepare us to repent.  
The unfolding of God's love invites,  
new realities and promises, following the light.

Ash Wednesday prepares us to be aware,  
setting aside time for ashes, fasting, and prayer.  
A holy pause reminds us to pay attention,  
coming to terms with God's new dimension.

It's a wandering through the light and dark,  
a journey of renewal ... we are called to embark.  
Leaning into our faith during the joy and strife,  
God's love is ever present in all seasons of life.



# FROM THE RECTOR

Dear People of God,

As the glow of another Christmas fades and decorations find their way back into boxes, I pray that you and your loved ones had a memorable celebration while carving out space for the Christ-child to come into your hearts and homes. Upon reflection, I am so grateful for our amazing staff and the numerous volunteers that made Advent and Christmas so special this year. From seeing the decorations being hung to the truck loads of donations being delivered to singing Silent Night by candlelight, there were so many memorable moments.



One of my favorite moments of the season was the Christmas Pageant and inviting our children to come forward for the Eucharistic prayer. After converting the manger into a make-shift altar, children were invited to come forward for a closer look and experience. This year there was an abundance of inquisitive curiosities. After the service, someone shared a picture they took that captured the moment perfectly. Wondering gazes, a yawn, intense contemplation, head scratches, and even an artist with an audience. I love this messy moment for so many reasons, especially because it is a reminder that the manifestation of Christ happens despite the ways we are preoccupied or "looking busy."

As we begin a new year, the season of Epiphany invites us to pay closer attention to the ways Jesus comes into our lives. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphanelia, meaning "manifestation" or "appearance." Each year the season between Christmas and Lent encourages us to pay attention to stories that point to Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. In the coming weeks, we will hear stories of Jesus' baptism, the calling of disciples, and miracles. As you hear these stories again, I'd encourage you to listen with a renewed sense of curiosity and seek out new learnings, new possibilities, and new promises.

But don't get too comfortable during Epiphany. With an early Easter this year, we will begin our journey through the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We have numerous exciting opportunities for you to explore, grow, and deepen your faith in 2024. See you on Sunday!

Faithfully in Christ, The Rev. Matt Holcombe



## The Rev. Becca Stevens Sunday, February 25

Sunday Forum Guest 9:15 AM & Guest Preacher 10:30 AM

THISTLE FARMS  
LOVE HEALS

We are thrilled to welcome The Rev. Becca Stevens to St. Michael's on Sunday, February 25. Becca Stevens is a nonprofit leader, entrepreneur, priest, survivor, and founder and President of Thistle Farms, an organization dedicated to healing, empowering, and employing female survivors of human trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. She has founded 13 nonprofits and justice enterprises, mentored another 70, and has raised over \$75 million to support them. Becca has authored 12 books and sold over 300,000 copies. She has served as chaplain at St. Augustine's Chapel on Vanderbilt's campus for almost 30 years. Becca has been featured on PBS NewsHour, The Today Show, CNN, ABC World News, named a CNN Hero, a White House Champion of Change, and holds five honorary doctorates. Drawn from 25 years of leadership in mission-driven work, Becca leads important conversations across the country with an inspiring message that love is the strongest force for change in the world.

On February 25, we will also bless a special chalice and paten that was part of The Bethlehem Project. Born between Thistle Farms, Love Welcomes, and the Center for Contemplative Justice, only 300 chalices and patens were commissioned from four displaced women potters living in Bethlehem in the West Bank. The miracle of these vessels is that they were received the week prior to Hamas' attack on October 7, 2023. Now we cherish these as a remnant of a peace that passes understanding. We hold them and pray that love remains a powerful force for change. They call us to cherish the gift of life.



## January & February Worship Schedule

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: In-person

9:15 AM: Education for All Ages (Various Spaces)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist: In-person & Online with Choir & Children's Chapel

*Nursery Care Available for Children 5 and under on Sundays, 7:45 AM - 12:00 PM*

*(Join us for Coffee Hour and Fellowship after each Sunday service)*

January 7	First Sunday after the Epiphany	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	
January 14	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	8:00 AM	10:30 AM * ◇	* Livestreamed Services
January 21	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	◇ ASL Interpreter Services
January 25	Evensong for St. Paul		7:00 PM *	
January 28	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	
February 4	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	
February 11	Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany	8:00 AM	10:30 AM * ◇	
February 14	Ash Wednesday	12:00 PM	7:00 PM *	
February 18	First Sunday of Lent	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	
February 25	Second Sunday of Lent	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	



### Choral Evensong for St. Paul Thursday, January 25, 7:00 PM \*

We will mark The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, one of the most decisive moments in the development of God's kingdom on earth, with a mid-week Choral Evensong. Come enter into a quiet place of contemplation with music, readings and prayer.

### Ash Wednesday Wednesday, February 14

- 7:00 - 9:00 AM Ashes to Go in St. Mike's parking lot
- 12:00 PM Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist
- 7:00 PM \* Imposition of Ashes, Holy Eucharist & Choir



### Wednesday Healing Service 12:00 PM, Chapel

A 30-minute Healing Service with Holy Eucharist and anointing with Holy Oil. All are welcome!

### More Opportunities to Worship, Learn, and Grow

- Tuesday Lectio Divina Online 10:00 AM Monthly
- Tuesday Compline Online 8:00 PM
- Wednesday Contemplative Prayer Online 2:30 PM
- Wednesday Bible Study 12:30 PM in the Chapel
- Thursday Celtic Spirituality Hybrid 6:00 PM
- Thursday Compline Online 8:00 PM
- Friday Celtic Spirituality 9:00 AM in the Chapel
- Friday Evening Prayer Online 7:00 PM
- Saturday Men's Fellowship 8:00 AM twice monthly

\* Weekly unless otherwise noted.

# SUNDAY FORUM

Our Sunday Forum Series resumes with our clergy, special guests, and leaders from our parish. The Sunday Forum occurs from 9:15 - 10:10 AM in the main church sanctuary. Join us in-person or online for these faith based, formative conversations.

## January 7

### **A New Year's Evolution**

The Rev. Matt Holcombe

Join the Rev. Matt Holcombe as we begin a new year's evolution, instead of a new year's resolution. Learn how your faith leads and inspires you as we begin a new year together!

## January 14

### **Mental Health & Suicide**

Special Guest, David Galvan

Join Rev. Matt & David as we continue the conversation about Mental Health help at St. Michael's. We will explore resources, dispel unhelpful myths, and learn how we can all provide hope and healing.

## January 21

### **Loss & Faith**

Special Guest, Janet Perreault

Join Rev. Matt & Janet for a faith inspired response to handling grief, loss, and disappointment. If you've ever felt lost or hopeless, you will not want to miss this conversation.

## January 28

### **Wellness: Trauma & Resilience**

Special Guest, Brooke Small

Join Rev. Matt & Brooke as we unpack the ways trauma impacts our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Brooke will share some helpful learnings and tools to build resilience.

## February 4

### **Annual Meeting**

Senior Warden, Russ Howell

We will look back on the fruitful year we had in 2023, look ahead to where God is calling us, vote for vestry members, and review the church's finances. For more information on the annual meeting: [stmikeschurch.com/annualmeeting](http://stmikeschurch.com/annualmeeting).

## February 11

### **Within & Beyond Our Walls:**

### **Embodied Prayer**

Clergy & Staff

How do you use prayer to sustain you? Join our staff and clergy for some new ideas and approaches to talking and listening to God. This is a great way to prepare for Lent that starts on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

## February 18

### **Practically Divine: Book Discussion**

The Rev. Matt Holcombe

There is no secret to experiencing the sacred in our lives; it just takes practice and practicality. Signs of love abound everywhere - when we allow ourselves to embrace both ordinary and extraordinary experiences, we can feel the divine anywhere. Join Rev. Matt as he explores the hidden truths in Becca Stevens' latest book, Practically Divine.

## February 25

### **Practically Divine**

Special Guest, The Rev. Becca Stevens

Priest, author, entrepreneur, justice-seeker, and advocate for women survivors - Becca is the founder and president of Thistle Farms. She has been featured on NPR, New York Times, the TODAY Show, and is a CNN Hero. Join Matt & Becca as they discuss what it means to be practically divine by redefining old lies, appreciating the gifts that come from imperfection, and accepting chaos with courage.

## January Wellness Offerings

### Estate Planning Conversations

**January 18, 2:00 & 6:00 PM**

Planning your financial wellness ("estate planning") can be a gift to your family and easy to do. Join Chad Spencer, St. Mike's parishioner and attorney with EPIC Law Group, for a discussion on estate planning. Chad will help you see that almost everyone has an estate, and estate planning does not have to be complex or arduous to be worthwhile. You can sign up for either the afternoon or evening session at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup). Both sessions will cover the same material.

### Funeral Planning Seminar

**January 29, 1:00 - 2:30 PM**

Join Rev. Matt to learn how planning your funeral can be a time of prayerful, joyful reflection versus a morbid task. Sign up at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup). If you are unable to attend, you are encouraged to view the funeral planning resources online at [www.stmikeschurch.com/emergency](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/emergency).

### Emergency Preparedness

Do you have a plan and the proper information and materials in place to ensure your safety and well-being during and after a disaster? As a part of your new year's goals, we encourage you to complete the detailed *Season of Resilience in Emergency Preparations* step by step 5-week program available through the St. Mike's website. This program will guide you through the process of preparing for a variety of potential disasters relevant to our location. This amazing resource can be found at [www.stmikeschurch.com/emergency](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/emergency).

### Mental Health Resources

Did you know you can access Mental Health resources & recommendations by visiting: [www.stmikeschurch.com/mentalhealth](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/mentalhealth). Need a referral or help? Contact one of our clergy or Owen Copps, Director of Children, Youth, & Young Adult Ministries.

## Lenten Offerings



THE WAY OF LOVE  
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life  
an Episcopal resource

### Lenten Soup Suppers

**Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

On Wednesdays during Lent (February 21 - March 27), you are invited to enjoy delicious homemade soups and fellowship as we explore The Way of Love. More than a curriculum or program, The Way of Love is an invitation to follow Jesus: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go & Rest. When talking about The Way of Love, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said, "I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement ... to grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world." Each Wednesday during Lent, Rev. Matt or Rev. Vicki will be taking a deep dive into the practices for a Jesus-centered life. Each week we will need individuals to prepare soup, serve, set up, and clean up. To volunteer, go to [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).

### Sacred Land

**Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

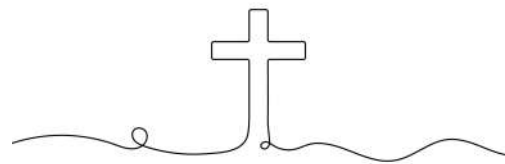
The St Michael's Creation Justice team is offering *Sacred Land: Food and Farming* for 10 weeks beginning February 6. Participants will learn how food and farming practices affect the climate crisis, marginalized communities, and their own health and spiritual wellbeing. Learn more and register at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).

### Being With for Young Adults

**Mondays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**

Being With is a course that invites you to be with yourself, each other, and the created world. In this exploration of Christian life, the hope is that you will begin to discover how God is with you and how you are with God. This specific 6-week offering beginning February 19 is for young adults ages 18 - 39. Email Owen for more information and to reserve your spot.





## Lenten Retreat: An Invitation to a Holy Lent

**Saturday, February 10, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM (Lunch provided)**

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries in the deserts of the Middle East, men and women, who became known as Desert Fathers and Mothers (Abbas and Ammas) began a powerful movement to renounce the world and follow God's call. Christine Valtner Paintner writes, "The desert journey isn't about embarking on a long and arduous journey to find God at the end of the road. Desert spirituality is about looking for God right in the very midst of wrestling with ourselves. God is in the heart of the struggle, and we are to stay there with the Holy Presence until the treasure is revealed."

As a part of the self-examination we are encouraged to embark on in observance of a Holy Lent, this Lenten retreat will look at some of the teachings of the Ammas and Abbas, particularly what they call the passions (obstacles that keep us from loving God, ourselves and our neighbors) and the virtues (those things that invite us into healing and repentance as we look to deepen our awareness of God's presence and deep love for us).

The retreat leader is The Rev. Bonnie Sarah Spencer who serves as a priest in the Diocese of Colorado and has started a spiritual direction practice. To register, please visit [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).

## Patient Trust

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress  
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—  
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;  
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,  
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time  
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)  
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

## 2023 Outreach Grants Awarded

- ASD20 Family Resource Center \$1,000 + \$750 Gift Cards + Donations
  - Care and Share Food Bank \$3,500
    - Creation Care \$700
- Episcopal Relief and Development \$1,000
  - Hats & Mittens for Schools \$100
  - Hope is Alive \$1,000
  - InsideOut \$2,000 + Donations
    - Kairos \$1,500
    - Laundry Love \$3,000
    - The Lord's Dinner \$3,000
- Mercy's Gate \$3,000 + Donations
- Partners in Housing \$4,000 + Donations
  - Spiritual Journey \$1,500
  - TESSA \$500 + Donations
    - We Fortify \$1,000
    - West Side Cares \$2,000

\* **Please note:** The application deadline for 2024 Outreach grants is January 31, 2024. Download the application at [www.stmikeschurch.com/outreach](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/outreach).

## Laundry Love Another AMAZING Year of Ministry!

St. Michael's Laundry Love ministry once again successfully carried out its mission of washing clothes and bedding for low/no income people in West Colorado Springs with love, dignity, and detergent. In 2023, Deacon Gary and our volunteers served 2,230 guests, washed and dried 7,703 loads of laundry, fed 59,120 quarters into machines, and gave out 1800 PB&Js. We are grateful for the partnership with Westside Laundry and for the \$14,780 in generous donations from St. Michael's parishioners and partner grants.



# 40 Giving DAYS OF LENT 2024

## Outreach Donations During Lent

Give yourself the gift of helping others this Lent beginning February 14. Pick up a reusable bag in the Gathering Space along with a list of donation items needed by our Outreach Partners. Donate 1, 5, 10, or all 40 items on the list. This year donations will benefit Partners in Housing, Care & Share Food Bank, Mercy's Gate, Tessa, ASD20 Family Resource Center, and Inside Out. Financial donations can also be made. Please indicate "40 Days of Giving" in the check memo or in the notes if giving online. Please drop off donations March 24 - March 31 to the Parish Hall or the church office. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for making a difference.

## Interfaith Hospitality Network Save the Date: March 24 - 31

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) consists of a dozen parishes in Colorado Springs that provide temporary short-term housing for homeless families while they work to become financially independent. From March 24 through March 31, St. Michael's will house up to four IHN families in our classrooms. Please mark the date, watch the Weekly eNews for more information, and consider volunteering for one or more of the roles necessary to support these families. Contact Kelly Belvis ([kellydean0409@gmail.com](mailto:kellydean0409@gmail.com)) or Susan Futey ([susanfutey@gmail.com](mailto:susanfutey@gmail.com)) for more information.

## Featured Partner: TESSA

TESSA is the domestic violence prevention headquarters for Colorado Springs and the surrounding areas. Their mission is: "To help survivors achieve safety and well being while challenging communities to end sexual and interpersonal violence". Several times a year TESSA is included in St. Michael's donation drives, and they are always most appreciative of our generosity and overwhelmingly grateful for the donations. More information can be found at their website: [tessacs.org](http://tessacs.org). There is a list of needed items which is updated monthly. Thanks for your support!

# MUSIC & WORSHIP

## Choral Evensong for the Feast of St. Paul

January 25, 7:00 PM

"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." -- 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Our quarterly Evensong program continues on January 25. Take a break from the noisy world around you and enter into a place of quiet contemplation with music, readings and prayer.

### Service Music

Our service music changes seasonally alongside the church calendar! Our music for the Season of Epiphany will be:

Gloria: Hymn S 280

Gospel Acclamation: Jan. 7, 14, 21: "As with gladness men of old" Hymn 119

Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11: "Celtic Alleluia"

Doxology: Hymn 380, vs. 3

Sanctus: The Iona Community

### Seraphim Choir

The Seraphim Choir (St. Michael's Adult Choir) resumes rehearsals on Thursday, January 11, from 6:30 - 8:00. They are always looking for new members, and they are especially in need of tenor and bass voices. This choir sings every Sunday at the 10:30 AM service, September through May, with rehearsal at 9:45 AM. No audition is required to join... simply contact Amalia at [amalia@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:amalia@stmikeschurch.com).

### Cherub Choir

Our children's Cherub Choir will be singing this Spring at a 10:30 AM Service. Further information will be announced in the Weekly eNews. Please contact Amalia or Owen if you have any questions. We can't wait to hear our young musicians sing!

### Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir will resume their regular Sunday rehearsals on January 28 from 12:00 - 1:30 PM in preparation for the next time they play on March 17. We are grateful to this group for their commitment to this ministry and enhancing our Advent experience. If you are interested in learning more or joining this group, please contact Mary Dee Weigel at [jmandmdweigel@aol.com](mailto:jmandmdweigel@aol.com).

### Christmas 2023 Attendance

1,261 Attendees (717 in-person & 544 online) 4 Services





## Young Adult Events

**Friday, January 12:** Theology on Tap goes on the road, meeting at Colorado College with CC chaplain Kate Holbrook for conversation and embodied prayer practices.

**Tuesday, January 23:** Gather: Pikes Peak (Young Adults partner) is celebrating its second birthday. Join for a night at TopGolf. Cost is \$20 a person.

**Friday, February 9:** Theology on Tap returns to Goat Patch Brewing for a conversation hosted by Josh Rumple, Director of Youth & Pastoral Care at First Congregational Church.

**Tuesday, February 27:** Gather: Pikes Peak regular schedule resumes.... 7:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month at First Lutheran Church.

## 40s & 50s Fellowship Group

**Wednesday, February 21, 8:00 PM**

It's Karaoke time! Join for fellowship and surely some laughs at Good Company Restaurant and Bar (7625 N Union Blvd). No legitimate skills required, and no pressure to be more than an observer. Haha! RSVP online.

## Adult Dinner Groups

**Food! Fun! Fellowship!**

Do you like to cook, entertain, and meet new people? We are in the planning stages for adult dinner groups to begin in February. These groups of 6-8 people will meet monthly for 3 to 4 months, and then be switched up to allow more opportunities for increased fellowship. The meal format will likely be potluck with the host deciding the theme or menu for the evening. More information to come!

## People Who Read

**3rd Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 PM**

People Who Read meets to discuss books selected by group members, and all are welcome! For more information, email Jennie at [jennie@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:jennie@stmikeschurch.com) or Linda at [linda@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:linda@stmikeschurch.com) for more information.

**January 17, 6:00 - 8:00 PM** in the Chapel (also on zoom)

*Africa is Not a Country* by Dipo Faloyin

**February - NO MEETING** due to Lenten Soup Suppers



## A Case for Love

**Tuesday, January 23, 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

Our beloved Episcopal Church and Bishop Curry's message of love will be shared with the wider world on Tuesday, January 23, when the feature-length documentary, *A Case for Love*, is unveiled for a one-day only showing in at least 1,000 theaters nationwide. St. Mike's has already purchased 30 tickets for both the 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM movies at AMC Chapel Hills cinema on Briargate. We look forward to sharing this as a community at a time when this message is needed more than ever. RSVP at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).

## SMASH (60+ Fellowship)

**Tuesday, January 23, 2:00 PM**

The St. Michael's Active Senior Happenings (SMASH) group is gathering for a late lunch/early dinner and fellowship at the Olive Garden near Chapel Hills Mall (7815 N. Academy Blvd) prior to the *A Case for Love* movie. RSVP for SMASH lunch online at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup). RSVP separately for your movie ticket for the 4:00 PM showing of *A Case for Love*. Contact Diane at [diane@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:diane@stmikeschurch.com) with any questions.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**February 13, 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Join for our annual pancake supper with pancakes, laughter, and plenty of syrup. All are welcome with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. No RSVP required. You can also get pancakes to go by stopping by the Gathering Space between 6:00 - 7:00 PM. ALL Men of the church are invited to help set up, serve, and clean up (4:30 - 8:00 PM). Sign up at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## Parenting Small Group

January 7 & February 11

9:15 - 10:10 AM

The Parenting Group meets once a month and provides a way for parents to be together, share experiences, and have conversations about what being a parent looks like today, free of judgement or shame.

## Family Sunday School

January 21 & February 18

9:15 - 10:10 AM

Parents with children PreK through 12th grade are invited to accompany their children to Sunday School once a month to learn, explore, and play together while getting to hear what family members think about various faith optics.

## Youth Group

Resumes January 10

Weekly on Wednesdays

Middle School: 5:30 - 6:45 PM

High School: 7:00 - 8:30 PM

## Youth Council

January 14 & February 4

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Our youth council is a team of high school aged servant leaders that engage in service opportunities, plan retreats, and provide vision for our youth programs. All high schoolers are invited to join! Fill out the Youth Council Application at [stmikeschurch.com/ycapp](http://stmikeschurch.com/ycapp) and become part of the team!



## Ash Wednesday Youth Group

Wednesday, February 14

Dinner & Conversation: 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Service: 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Middle & High Schoolers are invited to begin Lent with a meal and Lenten reflection together. They will spend time setting intentions for Lent and then attend the Ash Wednesday Worship service together. Parents are invited to join for the worship portion of the evening.

## BeYou!

January 21 & February 18

6:00 - 8:00 PM

St. Michael's Middle & High Schoolers are invited to join with youth from affirming churches from all over Colorado Springs at First Lutheran Church (1515 Cascade Ave) for a time of food, fellowship, fun, and faith formation. The February meeting will be a special celebration of BeYou's first birthday, so come prepared to party!

## Youth Ski Trip

January 27 & 28

Monarch Ski Resort

Middle & High Schoolers are invited to join for a ski weekend and retreat. Our friends at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp will be hosting the group on Saturday and sending them on their way to ski all day long on Sunday. The cost of this trip is \$150 per participant. This includes four meals, lodging, a lift ticket, and lots of fun! Scholarships are readily available. Sign up at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup). **Registration closes Wednesday, January 10.**



Contact Owen Copps, Director of Children, Youth, & Young Adult Ministries, with questions about any of these events or programs. [owen@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:owen@stmikeschurch.com)

## Prayer Partners Connecting Our Adults & Children

Prayer is a transformative way for people of all ages to be in relationship with one another, and our new Prayer Partner Program aims to better connect adults and children in the parish. This initiative partners adult members of St. Mike's (Sages) with children in the parish ages Pre-K through 5th grade (Sprouts). Are you interested in becoming a Sage or Sprout? Go to [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup) to complete the form; then get connected with your partner, pray, and repeat.



## Worship Volunteers 30 Needed Each Sunday

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10) Can you be an acolyte, usher, greeter, lay reader, chalice bearer, nursery helper, or assist with coffee hour? Each Sunday we need 30 volunteers to ensure our two worship services and hospitality run smoothly. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these areas in the New Year. Sign up at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).

## Altar Flowers 2024 Calendar Filling

Thank you to everyone in 2023 who made donations for altar, Easter or Christmas flowers. The calendar for 2024 Altar Flower Donations is already filling up! Families or friends can make a \$50 donation to sponsor the Sunday altar flowers in thanksgiving for or in memory of a loved one. If you wish to reserve a date for altar flowers, please sign up at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup). Contact Diane at the church office with any questions.

## Nametags Please!

Thank you for wearing your nametag while at church so friends and new faces can get to know you! Need a new nametag? Please fill out a form at the Welcome table on Sunday Mornings or email [diane@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:diane@stmikeschurch.com).

## The Saint John's Bible (SJB) 3 Items of Interest

*The Saint John's Bible* has found a welcoming home at St. Michael's! We now have 21 trained docents who have led 18 showings of the Bible since October.

**Become a Docent:** A SJB docent hosts "encounter" sessions with groups at St. Michael's or in our wider community and promotes and cares for the SJB. If you are interested in becoming a docent or are a current docent needing a refresher, please plan to attend the upcoming training on Saturday, January 13, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Sign up at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).

**Schedule a Docent-led Viewing:** You are invited to get an up close and personal introduction to this amazing, illuminated bible. You can schedule a docent-led viewing by going to the St. Michael's homepage and scrolling to the "Learn more about *The Saint John's Bible*" link.

**Purchase merchandise:** To help everyone experience *The SJB* and draw closer to the word of God, there is merchandise available for purchase at discounted prices in the St. Bede's Bookstore in the hallway outside the church office. We have coffee table books for each of the volumes, notecards, as well as other books that explain the art and calligraphy in *The Saint John's Bible*. With Lent approaching there are several books particularly recommended to guide us on our Lenten journeys:

- Praying the Word
- Illuminating the Word
- Illuminating Justice
- The Art of *The Saint John's Bible*
- Planting Letters and Weaving Lines

If you have any questions, contact the Rev. Judi Sato at [j.sato@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.sato@sbcglobal.net).



# NEWCOMERS

## Newcomer Classes



**January 14: The Episcopal Church 101 - The Basics**  
**February 11: Who We Are (St. Michael's History) and a Campus Tour**

Our three rotating Newcomer Classes "Let's Get Connected" have moved to the second Sunday of each month in 2024. These are stand-alone classes that you can take in any order. You can attend all of them or just those you wish. These classes are designed for newcomers, but ALL are welcome and no sign up is required. Email Linda Kean, at [linda@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:linda@stmikeschurch.com) with any questions.

## Welcome New Members

In 2023, we were delighted to have welcomed a total of 76 new members into the St. Michael's family. The following people are those who have joined since our last newsletter. So grateful you have chosen St. Mike's!

Curt and Jean Brewer

Robert and Sue Bux

Tom Clarke

Amelia Hanes

A.K. and Vicky Harrod

Austin Krug

Blake Langland

Edward and Lisa Seekings

Eric Shutt

Jason, Taylor, and Griffin (child) Simenson

## CREATION CARE CORNER



"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)

Caring for the environment is a Christian imperative. God, the creator, has entrusted us to be good stewards of the earth, to use its resources wisely, and to protect it for future generations. Yet, we pollute the air and water, we destroy animal habitats, and we significantly contribute to climate change.

**Carbon, greenhouse gas, footprints...what does that mean?** We have all heard the news about climate change and excess carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide, considered a "greenhouse gas" because it traps heat in the atmosphere, is in itself not a bad element. However, human activities are currently releasing more carbon dioxide than earth's natural processes can absorb. The amount of carbon dioxide added to our atmosphere annually has almost doubled since 1973 and is 200 times more than in 1850 due to the burning of fossil fuels for energy, industry, and travel. Coupled with a decrease in the way carbon is naturally absorbed (forests, tundra, sea grass, etc), the excess carbon dioxide has warmed the planet, sparking a whole host of destabilizing actions from extreme weather events to excessive droughts and rising sea levels.

We humans must acknowledge our actions and take active steps to reduce and offset our own carbon dioxide footprints and better care for the environment and our neighbors.

**What's next?** Our Creation Justice programs have helped parishioners learn more about water, air, and energy issues and what needs to be done to reverse the current crisis. Starting this February 6, we will be studying land use through a 10-week small group experience, "Sacred Land: Food and Farming." Through readings, conversation, prayer, and spiritual practices, participants will explore their relationships with land and examine practical ways to support sustainable food and farming practices. (Learn more on page 5.) Information about other action opportunities will be coming soon in the Weekly eNews and on the St. Mike's website. Please consider joining one of the Creation Justice's educational or action activities.



Every year, in accordance with the Canons (or rules) of the church, St. Michael's gathers as a parish for an annual meeting. This provides us an opportunity to look back at the amazing work God has done in our community and to prepare for the year to come. We elect new vestry members and share vital aspects and important information essential to carrying out our mission and ministries. The Annual Meeting will take place between the Sunday morning services on February 4. To conserve paper, the agenda, Annual Reports, and financial documents will be available on the Annual Meeting webpage.

## Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 4, 9:15 AM

Parish Members Running for Election:

*Pictured Top Row (Left to Right)*

**Russ Howell** - Senior Warden

**Danny Raider** - Junior Warden

**Steve Shively** - Junior Warden

*Pictured Bottom Row (Left to Right)*

**Veronica Bélanger** - Vestry Ballot

**Mark Borchert** - Vestry Ballot

**Cindy Carr** - Vestry Ballot



\* Candidate bios can be found on the website at [www.stmikeschurch.com/annualmeeting](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/annualmeeting).

## What is the Vestry?

The vestry is the elected lay leadership team (or executive team) at St. Michael's. The vestry is comprised of 9 individuals plus a Senior Warden, Junior Wardens, and Treasurer. The clergy also sit on the vestry but are non-voting members. The primary responsibility of the vestry is to oversee the finances and property of St. Michael's in addition to being ambassadors, liaisons for ministry, and helping with strategic decisions for the continued vitality of our spiritual home. Vestry members serve three-year terms while wardens may serve up to two years.

**Special Voting Announcement:** Active members of St. Michael's that are known to the treasurer are eligible to vote for vestry members. Electronic voting will be open January 29 and close on February 4 at 10:00 AM. Individuals attending in-person on February 4 may vote in-person with a paper ballot. One vote per member. Questions about voting? Email [support@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:support@stmikeschurch.com).

The church's bylaws can be found on the website per the Canons: [www.stmikeschurch.com/annualmeeting](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/annualmeeting). In addition, the Vestry has adopted a 2024 budget which will be shared during the annual meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held in the church and will also be livestreamed.

# 2023 LIGHT FESTIVAL



## St. Michael's Episcopal Church

7400 Tudor Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Office Telephone: 719-598-3244 [www.stmikeschurch.com](http://www.stmikeschurch.com)

The Rev. Matt Holcombe, Rector, x101  
The Rev. Vicki Hesse, Associate Rector, x102  
The Rev. Gary Darress, Deacon  
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Sanders  
The Rev. Dr. Winifred Mitchell, Assisting Clergy  
Owen Copps, Director of Children & Youth Ministries, x104  
Amalia Dobbins, Director of Music  
Daniel Foster, Organist  
Ama Couch, Communications Coordinator  
Diane Dennison, Front Desk, x100  
Drew Hutchinson, AV Technician  
Linda Kean, Newcomer Ministry Coordinator, x106  
Jan McLaughlin, Finance Manager, x105  
Jennie Wandfluh, Director of Parish Life, x103  
Tamika Richardson, Sexton

[Matt@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Matt@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Vicki@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Vicki@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Gary@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Gary@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Joanne@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Joanne@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Contact@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Contact@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Owen@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Owen@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Amalia@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Amalia@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Daniel@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Daniel@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Comm@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Comm@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Diane@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Diane@stmikeschurch.com)  
[AVL@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:AVL@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Linda@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Linda@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Treasurer@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Treasurer@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Jennie@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Jennie@stmikeschurch.com)  
[Contact@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:Contact@stmikeschurch.com)

## St. Michael's Vestry

Senior Warden: Russ Howell

Junior Wardens: Danny Raider, Mike Mapes / Treasurer: Chris Couch

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

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

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

Clerk: Aprel Mitchell

## January Birthdays

January 1 Juliet Llaña  
January 2 Jacob Calhoun  
January 2 Alan McPeak  
January 2 Rachael Verlinde  
January 3 Jessica Bennett  
January 4 Jocelyn Pettigrew  
January 5 Deegan Carton  
January 6 Dave Harriman  
January 6 Brett Wandfluh  
January 7 Jason Cumby  
January 8 Patrick Jenkins  
January 9 Ginny Anderson  
January 10 Meggie Kean  
January 11 Linda Council  
January 11 Jason Lett  
January 11 Jenny Thielke  
January 12 Lindsey Kellen  
January 13 Sally Creely  
January 14 Christopher Kean  
January 14 Jon Numair  
January 14 John Priest  
January 14 Edward Seekings  
January 15 Sean Cabrera  
January 15 Sophia DeJoia  
January 15 Mike Fink  
January 15 Diane Groom  
January 16 Darlene Greenhut  
January 16 Neil Pettigrew  
January 18 Jeanne Gau  
January 19 Sofia Dickerman  
January 19 Asher Kolodzej  
January 20 Kathy Armstrong  
January 20 Michael Weidner  
January 21 Griffon Frank  
January 21 Emma Phillips  
January 22 Jinn Birkes  
January 22 Danny Cowell  
January 22 Catherine Gollan  
January 22 Braden Sears  
January 22 James Verlinde  
January 24 Emily Darling  
January 25 Audrey Houser

January 25 Dave Newberry  
January 25 Audrey Smullen  
January 27 Sharon Bayless  
January 27 Linda McPeak  
January 27 Kim Person  
January 28 Luke Brooks  
January 28 Bill Daughton  
January 28 Robert Jager  
January 28 Chad Spencer  
January 28 Levi Sutherland  
January 28 Matthew Waidelich  
January 28 Bob Wettemann  
January 29 Les Krohnfeldt  
January 29 Gus Wood  
January 30 Pamela Buick  
January 30 Erin Capell  
January 31 Allie Holcombe

## February Birthdays

February 1 Paul Anderson  
February 1 Miles Kuplic  
February 3 Matthew Chernak  
February 3 Bruce Nicklas  
February 3 Amelie Pachter  
February 3 Sarah Tucker  
February 5 Carl Nesbitt  
February 5 Joy Underhill  
February 7 Jeff Smullen  
February 8 Grace Morrison  
February 10 Ainsley Trevillian  
February 12 Lanny Geib  
February 12 Jenna Lowenberg  
February 15 Kathleen Foster  
February 15 Arlo Middlebrook  
February 16 Diana Fink  
February 17 Carmen Kolodzej  
February 17 Caleb Trevillian  
February 18 Steve Crowe  
February 18 Thella Geib  
February 18 Mary Lett  
February 19 Lisa Cumby  
February 20 Guy Theriot

February 21 Nydia Segal  
February 21 Ella Wandfluh  
February 21 Carissa Warren  
February 22 Dan Shepherd  
February 24 Loretta Vail  
February 24 Andrew Wettemann  
February 25 Jack Braley  
February 25 Tom Neill  
February 25 Sam Valko  
February 26 Josh Fenton  
February 26 Alicia Holcombe  
February 27 Jan Hill  
February 27 Caroline Marshall  
February 28 Debra Deverell  
February 28 Sally Wessely

## January Anniversaries

January 2 Mary Beth & Steve Shively  
January 5 Chuck & Robin Schwartz  
January 7 Diane & Jerry Verlinde  
January 8 Cassie & Matthew Sears  
January 21 Jenny & Steve Liebowitz

## February Anniversaries

February 4 Bob & Gerry Forster  
February 10 Katy & Ryan Kolodzej  
February 14 Ed & Patti Hanemann  
February 14 Kelly & Russ Howell  
February 18 Christine & Henry Hudson



If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, we apologize. Please email Diane at [diane@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:diane@stmikeschurch.com) so we can update our database and celebrate you! Thank you!



X



**St. Michael's**  
Episcopal Church  
COLORADO SPRINGS

7400 Tudor Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

X

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**St. Michael's Episcopal Church Colorado Springs**

Posted by Matt Holcombe

Dec 31, 2023 · 🌐

As a new year dawns ... take a deep breath this day, offer up the unanswered prayers in your heart, and count 1 2 3 1 2 3 ...

Almighty God, as we enter into a new year - please give me... A few friends who understand me and remain my friends; A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer; A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed; An understanding heart; A sense of humor; Time for quiet, silent meditation; A feeling of the presence of God; The patience to wait for the coming of these things, With the wisdom to recognize them when they come. Amen.



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No account needed.

[facebook.com/stmikeschurchCOS](https://facebook.com/stmikeschurchCOS)