

The Sword and Shield



SAINT MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GENESEO, NEW YORK

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Easter Greetings from Your Wardens and Vestry



BY ANDREA AND STEVE

When I sat down to write this note, I had imagined another Easter without the warmth and beauty of St. Michael's in-person service. Since then we have received news that St. Michael's will be re-opening on Easter Sunday!

It was hard to imagine another Easter without the beauty of St. Michael's stained glass, the warmth of the sunlight pouring through, the Easter lilies and palms, and the company of friends and family. While the last year has been a struggle in many ways that we couldn't have imagined, it seems we are turning a corner with the vaccinations under way in the fight against COVID-19.

The Easter season seems a good time to reflect on the ways in which we have persevered. We have gathered in spirit, in virtual prayer groups, on Zoom, and over the phone. We have, in many ways, become stronger as a church family. Through the work of many hands, the mission at Upper South Street has grown to include many volunteers making meals for those in need. Our Vestry has new members. We welcomed Caitlin in the office as our Parish Administrator. There is much to be grateful for in this season of hope.

We look forward to gathering once again, to marvel at the beauty of the sunlight pouring through St. Michael's, hearing Mitch on the organ and the voices of our choir, surrounded not by screens, but by friends and neighbors.

The Vestry and Strategic Planning Team

"While the cat's away..."

As reported earlier, a rector's sabbatical is a time for discernment, not only for the person away, but for those who remain. These 10 weeks are not a time for "the mice to play," but a time for re-examining ourselves as a congregation. During this time apart from Father Billy, the Vestry and Strategic Planning Team members are engaging in a Zoom leadership seminar with the **Reverend Paul Frolick**, who is a major figure in the College of Congregational Development. Network Leaders are, also, working to help the flow of communication and feeling of connectedness among members of the congregation.

Leadership teams have also been tasked with exploring the best-seller book *Think Again* by Adam Grant. Grant's book examines the critical art of rethinking many aspects of our approach to life and its challenges, a process that can apply to our church, as well.

Both the time with the Reverend Frolick and the text are meant to stimulate discussion and provide guidance as leaders in the church address the needs of the congregation.

Flowers for Easter and Contributions to the Food Pantry

To celebrate Easter and the re-opening, we will be decorating the Church once again. If you wish to donate toward lilies and other flowers, you may offer your gifts, including names of those to be honored — either as memorials or in thanksgiving.

Any donations beyond the expense for flowers will be directed to the Geneseo/Groveland Food Pantry.

Your name(s): _____

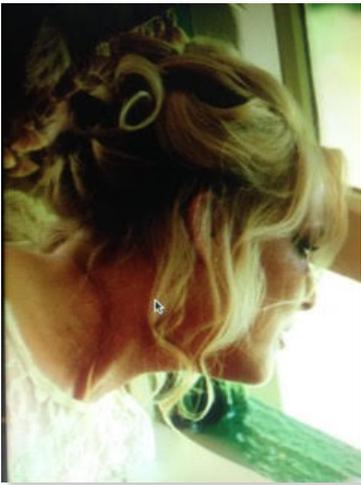
Memorials: _____

Thanksgiving or Other: _____

Weekly altar flowers will resume April 18th. The deadline for Easter flower donations is Wednesday, March 31st.

In light of occasional mail delays, you may want to contact the office directly with the names to be entered: office@stmikesgeneseo.org or 243-1220 (10-2 MWF).

New Faces in the Time of Covid



Nancy Braaten-Boyd



Gloria Kelley



Ann Monroe-Baillargeon

Although we are missing each other and looking forward to the time when we can see our "old" friends in church, there are some faces that will be new when we re-gather. All of them have had some connection to St. Michael's in the past, and we warmly welcome them into our congregation. Some of the new faces are the following:

Nancy Braaten-Boyd has enjoyed the serenity and availability of our chapel for some time and is another Geneseo native. Some may remember her father the Honorable C. Neal Nehrbass and her mother Jean Fish, who was a nursery school teacher for many of our children. She has three grown children, seven grandchildren, served in the military during 9/11 and is a 1ST Lt. RN. She currently is a nurse for the monks at the Abbey of the Genesee, about which she says, "It's the best job I've ever had." Nancy is a member of the Honor Guard of Post 2005-271 and a Trustee of the Friends of Letchworth and ANT (autism nature trail).

Gloria Kelley, perhaps best known as Christine Beard's mother, is the energetic great-grandmother who pulled up stakes in Malone, NY, after living in the Kelley family home for 67 years. She was a pillar of the Episcopal Church there and is no stranger to St. Michael's, having made many visits to family and friends in Geneseo over the years. Gloria now resides in The Hammocks, only a stone's throw from Rick and Christine, but enjoys some winter months in Cocoa Beach. Glo's sense of humor and engagement with people of all ages make her a delight.

Ann Monroe-Baillargeon has returned to St. Michael's after a six-year absence. Her work in teacher education has taken her to other communities in and out of state, but she has returned and now splits her time between her home on Conesus Lake and Syracuse, where she supports her sister Lisa. As the mother of three adult children who live elsewhere, she is happy to reconnect with dear friends in this area and the St. Michael's community. Ann enjoys hiking, kayaking and watching the sunrise over Conesus Lake.

THE REVEREND TERRELL W. PRICE

1936-2021

Celebration of Life - Saturday, May 8, at 2:00pm*

*This service is tentatively scheduled. We will be honoring Deacon Terry
for his dedication to St. Michael's and the Geneseo Fire Department

Sunday Services at St. Michael's — Who, What, When

Alleluia! St. Michael's will open for in-person services beginning April 4. As before, we will observe the usual safe practices such as social distancing, masks, and sanitizing. The single service at 9:30 will continue to be streamed with two visiting clergy, The **Reverend Mary Ann Brody** and The **Reverend Laurence Wainwright-Maks**.

Mary Anne Brody is a priest in the Diocese and a Certified Educator of ACPE (clinical pastoral work). She is a program director and founder of Crossroads of Caring, a ministry of St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church in the Beechwood neighborhood of Rochester. Crossroads is a program designed to support and educate spiritual caregivers in congregations and the community.

Originally from south Mississippi, where he lived most of his life, Laurence came to Rochester in 2018 when he accepted the call to be the Missioner to the Deaf and The Episcopal Chaplain at RIT/NITD. He, also, serves as Chaplain to The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf and is the Province II coordinator for Young Adult and Campus Ministries.

There are multiple ways to access the service: St. Michael's website, the weekly email with the link to the service and bulletin, and Youtube.

If you miss the 9:30 service, you can always watch it or any other service later!!

February Mailing: Did you receive it?

In February, we sent a major mailing including a message from Father Billy before his sabbatical departure, a contact list, a directory of the parish, and the name of your Network Leader and group members. If you did not receive this important contact and would like to have one, please contact Caitlin in the office.

243-1220 or office@stmikesgeneseo.org during office hours (MWF 10-2).

Pledge Campaign and Other Donations

Thank you for your continuing financial support during these challenging times. As of March 15, there are 63 pledging families, **including five new ones**, for a total of \$141,920.

Forward Day by Day

If you would like a copy of the daily devotional booklet, available in large print, please contact the office.

The Mission outside St. Michael's

Moving ahead Despite the Pandemic



COVID has modified, but not suspended, a number of mission programs sponsored by St. Michael's. With grace and generosity, parishioners have continued their good work of outreach to the community.

The association with **Upper South Street** at 600 Country Lane, Geneseo, part of the Episcopal Senior Life Community housing web, was transformed a year ago when we could no longer share a monthly meal with the residents. Under the direction of Marylou Boynton, we began to provide a substantive weekly meal for all 46 residents. Teams cook, assemble and deliver these meals each Thursday afternoon to USS, where they are distributed by an ESLC representative.

Want to help with USS? Contact Marylou: 734-1946 or marylouboynton@gmail.com.



Episcopal
SENIOR LIFE
Communities

Life. Inspired every day.

The **Geneseo/Groveland Food Pantry** also benefits from contributions by a few parishioners - some by monetary donations or from the Shopping Army and other helpful means of support.

If you wish to help the Food Pantry, contact Sandy: 243-5290 or wilcox sandy59@gmail.com.

Migrant workers in our area continue to benefit from the ministry of several parishioners. Although **Alianza Agricola** meetings have not been occurring in the same large, in-person format at the church as they did pre-COVID, we continue to witness and support our immigrant neighbors as individuals and in small groups. We provide regular transportation for several farm workers. We have delivered food and supplies through Alianza to some immigrant families experiencing food insecurity during the pandemic. We, also, contributed wrapping and gifts for Christmas. Supporting these families can be a deeply rewarding experience, and some friendships have been developed along the way.

Currently, there is a special need of transportation for an expectant mother in a family near Geneseo. Now that DMV offices are open once more, workers may apply for their drivers' licenses, thanks to the Green Light NY Law. Again, there is a need for kind, supportive parishioners to accompany our neighbors to the DMV office. Just down the road in the Batavia Detention Center, hundreds of people are separated from their families and have recently experienced an outbreak of COVID-19. You can help these fearful, isolated and ill people in two ways: become a Pen Pal by writing a letter of support and comfort and/or contribute to commissioner funds for the ill. Donations are accepted through the 501C-3 Non-profit Justice for Migrant Families.

If you want to know more about Alianza or the migrant worker program or can help in any way, please contact Juliea McCall: 243-9728 or julieamccall@gmail.com.

Who's in the Office? When?



At last, we have a parish administrator who seems to have those technical skills that Father Billy has long sought. Caitlin Tracy is a senior at SUNY Geneseo, majoring in communication and minoring in history and political science. Over the past year, she has worked as a social media intern for the International Student and Scholar Services Office on campus. Caitlin has also worked with Girls on the Run Rochester, assisting them with their social media and planning for their spring season. After graduation in May, Caitlin plans to move home to Buffalo where she will attend Canisius College for an MBA.

Caitlin looks forward to meeting parishioners and asks that you reach out to her with ideas or concerns. If you have any announcements for the weekly e-mail or the church service, please contact her early in the week.

**Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00 to 2:00
243-1220 or office@stmikesgeneseo.org**

11 Ward Place and Thanksgiving Lot

At the end of January 2021, St. Michael's acquired a second rental property at 11 Ward Place and the neighboring lot (formerly #13 rental, which burned down during the purchase process). This acquisition significantly enhances the church's income and is another way to connect with the community. Darcy Dewar Lynch and John Wallin are the well-qualified and experienced managers of both Bennett House, the property next door to the church, and 11 Ward Place. Happily, both properties are fully rented for the 2021-2022 school year.

Why and How Did We Make This Decision?

Use and Cost of Properties:

11 Ward Place, house for student rentals- \$180,000

13 Ward Place, vacant lot to be used for green space- \$15,000

Sources of Funds:

Reinvestment from Faith Hope & Charity- \$65,000

Reinvestment from Vestry Designated Funds- \$45,000

Donations and pledges from parishioners- \$87,954 (as of 1/28/21)

Impact of purchases on St. Michael's:

\$85,000 to St. Michael's balance sheet

\$22,000 net to operating income

\$1,100 (5% return on net income) to Faith Hope & Charity

Thanksgiving Lot (#13 Ward Place) provides an opportunity to work with the Village to develop green space on Ward Place

LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE AND FLEXIBILITY

Early May: Father Daniel returns

Palm Sunday and Easter: Sunday, March 28 and Sunday, April 4

Monday, May 31: Memorial Day Chicken BBQ- drive-thru only

Saturday, June 5: Musicale on the Lawn at St. Michael's (Rain Date: Sunday)

Saturday, July 10: Rotary Festival Pulled Pork in the Park, or.. **another possibility (stay tuned)**

End of August: Yard Sale?



Saint Michael's Episcopal Church
23 Main street
Geneseo, New York 14454

Easter Blessings to You

He is Risen!

St. Michael's Re-opens!

Alleluia! Alleluia!