

*Saint Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church  
El Segundo, California*



**The Annual Meeting of the Parish**  
**Sunday, January 30, 2022, after the 10am service**  
**—In person and livestreamed on our Facebook page—**

## **For those new to the Episcopal Church:**

**Why do we have an Annual Meeting?** *Our parish for legal purposes is a corporation. We have Parish Bylaws which correspond to the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Los Angeles. Parishes must have an Annual Meeting to elect “directors” who form the Vestry. The Vestry has responsibility for the “temporalities” of the parish. It is the custom at St. Michael’s that reports for the previous year are received, the budget for the next year is presented, and other business conducted. The Rector presides at the meeting.*

**Who can attend?** *Everyone interested in our parish can attend the Annual Meeting. Our Parish Bylaws require us to have a quorum of fifteen voting members.*

**Who can vote?** *Any baptized person who is at least sixteen years of age, has been attending services for the past sixty days, and is on record as giving (either by pledge and/or Sunday cash envelope/checks) is eligible to vote. Our Parish Bylaws and the Canons do not permit either proxies or absentee ballots.*

### **St. Michael the Archangel Vestry:**

*The vestry consists of six (6) members of the congregation. The Rector is chairperson of the vestry and is also a member. Vestry members serve for three-year terms with terms staggered so that we elect and retire two members at each annual meeting.*

### **The Officers of the Vestry:**

*The Senior Warden is appointed by the Rector.*

*The Junior Warden, Clerk and Treasurer are elected by the Vestry.*

*The Clerk and Treasurer are not required to be members of the Vestry.*

*Both Senior Warden and Junior Warden must be Vestry members.*

## Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer The Rev. Dr. Dina Ferguson
2. Appointment of Annual Meeting Clerk Florine Guy
3. Rector's Report The Rev. Dr. Dina Ferguson
4. Motion to Approve Minutes of February 21, 2021 Annual Meeting (*pages 4-5*)
5. Election of new vestry members  
Candidates: **Melissa McCaverty** and **Chris Powell** for full three-year terms
6. Election of Delegate and Alternate Delegate to 2021 Diocesan Convention  
One Delegate to be elected for a one-year term  
Candidate: **Melissa Albers.**  
One Alternate delegate to be elected for a one-year term  
Candidate: **Jeanie Powell.**  
*(Note: The dates for Diocesan Convention 2022 are November 11-12, 2022 in Riverside. Due to developments in the evolving Covid pandemic, a final determination of the exact format is still in process.)*
7. Motion to Receive Written Reports (*pages 6-16*)
8. 2021 Balance Sheet and 2022 Budget Presentation (*pages 17-21*)  
Chris Powell, Treasurer
9. Recognition of vestry members leaving the vestry: **Julie Bergeron** and **Florine Guy**
10. Appointment of Senior Warden
11. Other Business (if needed)
12. Closing Prayer
13. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

**St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church**  
**El Segundo, CA**  
**The Annual Meeting of the Parish – Sunday, February 21, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

A quorum of 31 church members was present. The 2021 Annual Meeting of St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church of El Segundo, CA, was called to order by The Rev. Dina Ferguson at 10:42am. Copies of the Annual Report were presented via PowerPoint, and attendance was taken based on those who were logged on to the site.

The meeting began with A Prayer for St. Michael's Church, followed by a questionnaire: How long have you been at St. Michael's? A BINGO board was next: What have you done at St. Michael's?

Julie Bergeron was appointed clerk of the Annual Meeting.

Minutes of the January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting: a motion was made by Momi Ince and seconded by Dan Ince to approve the minutes as written. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Written Reports:

- Rector's Report
- Senior Warden's Report
- Music Ministry Report
- Worship and Study Report
- Sunday School Report
- Stewardship Report
- Altar Guild Report
- Buildings & Grounds Report
- Outreach Report
- Veterans' Outreach Report
- Family Promise Report
- St. Michael's Children's Center Report

A motion was made by Julie Bergeron and seconded by Crystal Galloway to receive the written reports. There was a unanimous approval from the congregation.

Recognition of retiring vestry members: Mother Dina called on the faithful members who are retiring, Momi Ince and Raymond Gross. They each thanked the vestry and congregation for the opportunity to serve.

Election of new vestry members: The floor was opened for nominations to the vestry. Florine Guy, who led the vestry member search committee, nominated Jeanie Powell and Kathy Van Orden to serve 3-year terms, and a short bio of each was presented. No other nominations were put forth. The nominations were seconded by Melissa Albers and approved unanimously by the congregation.

Election of delegate and alternate delegate to the 2021 Diocesan Convention: Florine Guy nominated Julie Bergeron as convention delegate and Gerri Pisciotta as alternate for 2021. The nominations were seconded by Melissa Albers and approved unanimously by the congregation.

Chris Powell, treasurer, presented the budget.

2020 Balance Sheet and 2021 Budget Presentation: The 2021 budget, which was approved by the vestry, shows a net income loss of about \$6,584. Chris Powell will remain as Treasurer for 2021. Next time you see Chris, thank him!

Chris thanked our bookkeeper, Adrien Roberts-Gonzalez, for all her dedication and hard work with the financials and PPP loan paperwork. He also thanked the audit committee and the weekly pledge counters for their continued commitment, and Lauren Cherrington, director of SMCC, for her expertise in keeping the preschool running.

Mother Dina appointed Melissa Albers as Senior Warden for 2021.

Mother Dina ended the meeting with the following for the St. Michael's congregation:

*Holy God,  
Send us anywhere you would have us go,  
only go there with us.  
Place upon us any burden you desire,  
only stand by us to sustain us.  
Break any tie that binds us,  
except the tie that binds us to you.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
Creating, Redeeming and Sustaining, be with you –  
And those you love, serve and challenge –  
this day and forever.  
Amen.*

A motion was made by acclamation to adjourn the meeting at 11:39am, and all in attendance were invited to stay for a Zoom chat.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Bergeron, Clerk of the Annual Meeting

## **2021 REPORTS**

- Rector's Report ... *page 7*
- Senior Warden's Report ... *page 8*
- Worship and Study Report... *page 9*
- Music Ministry Report... *page 10*
- Stewardship Report... *page 10*
- Sunday School Report... *page 11*
- Buildings & Grounds Report... *page 11*
- Veterans' Outreach Report ... *page 12*
- Outreach Report... *page 13*
- Altar Guild Report... *page 14*
- Family Promise Report... *page 14*
- St. Michael's Children's Center Report... *page 15*

## RECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2021

*He passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

—Mark 4:30

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

This month marks the beginning of my ninth year here at St. Michael's. And it took you guys long enough to call me! For a few reasons there was a long interim before I arrived. But, after a lovely January vacation in the Florida Keys, I began as "Priest in Charge under Special Circumstances" in mid-January of 2014, the vestry voted to call me as rector in January of 2015 and I was instituted as the sixth rector of St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church in El Segundo, California in March.

In the history of St. Michael's only five other people have been privileged to hold this title. Gordon Yeaton, the founding rector, is remembered and honored here as our parish hall is named for him. He was followed by the three-year pastorate of Charles Rines and then the twenty-year tenure of Richard Duval. Kevin Taylor came in 1995 and stayed for 10 years, followed by Elizabeth Morse who was rector from 2005 to 2011. After longish vacancy when Marilyn Omernick was here as priest in charge, I arrived in January of 2014.

I have loved my time here and being with you for the last eight years. But, to quote Ecclesiastes, to everything there is a season. The first half of this year is my season to say goodbye—truly, "God be with you." By church law, I am required to retire before my birthday in March of 2023. After much thought, many conversations and serious times of prayer, I have decided to set a date, with my last Sunday as your rector on Pentecost, June 5<sup>th</sup> of this year. I will be with you through the seasons of Lent and Easter, and then as summer comes we will both begin our new seasons. I will take my leave and figure out what retirement looks like for me, and the community of St. Michael's will begin the process of self-examination and the calling of a new rector.

The calling of a new rector will be in the hands of your elected leadership, the vestry. They will work together and consult with you, the diocesan leadership and each other as they make a prayerful and hopeful decision for St. Michael's. This is an important decision and I firmly believe it is in good hands. Melissa Albers has agreed to continue as Sr. Warden and she will lead the vestry after I leave. The continuing members of the vestry have worked so well together during the challenges of the pandemic and have shown themselves to be committed and capable. St. Michael's has been blessed by their leadership. The new vestry members being elected today will bring additional skills and perspectives to the work ahead. I believe St. Michael's is in very good hands going forward. Melissa, Jeanie, Jorge, Kathy, and your new vestry members will be a stellar leadership team as St. Michael's moves into the future.

So, what of the weeks to come? In the next weeks, things will continue pretty much as usual. We will travel together through the season of Lent and celebrate the joys of Easter and the Easter season together—perhaps with a renewed sense of gratitude for the gift of being together. During this time, plans for the summer will be set and in the fall a new priest will come to St. Michael's for a period of time—perhaps as an interim or as the new priest in charge, depending on the decisions made by your vestry.

One more thing. Taking a tip from a friend of mine, I'm calling these last months at St. Michael's my gratitude tour. I want to celebrate our time together. I hope you'll join me. One of my favorite Christmas gifts this last year is a set of cards with quotes about thankfulness. I'll share a new quote each week to spur our thoughts about how we are grateful for the past, how we are thankful for our time together now, and how these both can bless our futures and the future of this community. And so, a quote for today to start us off.

*Never take anything for granted.*

I do not want to take this time for granted. This time we will continue to share together is a gift. You are all a gift. Thanks be to God for our time together.

*Mother Dina+*

### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

It has been another hard year for us. Losing Julie Bergeron was a big hit to our church. We wish her well in her new home but we miss her! Covid-19 has restricted our ability to be in communion with each other. This has been the hardest part of the pandemic. I miss our coffee hours, Bunco games, choir practice and in-person Bible study and book clubs. But we have learned to "pivot"! (Pivot is the new buzz word.) We are meeting in the church for services each week now and we were even able to celebrate Christmas in person this year.

I want to thank Mother Dina for always checking in with the vestry to make sure we are all doing everything we can for the congregation. A special thanks to Kathy Van Orden and Jorge Cortes for livestreaming the services each week. I know this has been a Godsend for a lot of our parishioners who are still at home.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our stained-glass window project. The windows look so good and will be protected for years to come. Thanks also to Randy Albers for his organization and time spent to get the project completed in time and on budget.

St. Michael's vestry is a hardworking, caring and giving group of people. Through Mother Dina and our vestry's efforts, they made this year bearable. Thank you to Mother Dina, Florine Guy, Jeanie Powell, Jorge Cortes, and Kathy Van Orden.

Melissa Albers, Senior Warden



## WORSHIP AND STUDY REPORT

As 2021 began, our worship schedule continued with online only worship. We continued to gather on Sunday mornings for a Zoom coffee hour followed by a livestream service of Morning Prayer or Ante-Communion at 10am on our Facebook page. We were grateful that Adam Behlen, our musician, was willing to supply music for our online worship.

The blessing of the vaccine allowed us to feel more confident about gathering together, and the vestry agreed that we felt safe to regather for *al fresco* worship on the bike yard south of the school building beginning on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. We met again on Easter Day and then planned to resume monthly *al fresco* worship on the first Sunday of each month. We held only two more *al fresco* Eucharist services (in May and June) and by the end of June it felt safe enough to come back inside.

Our first indoor services in more than a year were held on June 27, 2021—we were out of our sanctuary for just over 15 months. We opted to return to our schedule of two services (8am rite I and 10am rite II) in part to keep the congregation size down at any one service. And since we had an online presence on our Facebook page for more than a year, we agreed to livestream the 10am service each week. We are grateful to our videographers, Jorge Cortes and Kathy Van Orden, for splitting this duty and enabling us to maintain our online presence.

Even though we had in person services for the last half of 2021, we still had to forego many of the special services and study/fellowship opportunities this year. We were not able to celebrate any of these regular services/events: “Ashes to Go” on Ash Wednesday, our Easter Egg Hunt, Lent Movie Nights, St. Michael’s Readers, Shakespeare in the Park, Episcopal Dodger Night, fellowship gatherings for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and St. Michael’s Day, Christmas Tree Lighting and Gingerbread House competition were all cancelled. But we did manage to gather on the steps after our St. Michael’s Day in-person worship for a community picture. Yay!



Our Bible study continued in 2021 with a Zoom format. During the year we spent time studying the Bible with help from two books by Adam Hamilton (*John: The Gospel of Light* and *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*) and we finished the year studying the stories of *The Women of the Bible* by Shannon Bream.

## MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

Here we are in year two of the pandemic, and for most of 2021 it seemed to be an adjustment still for many in terms of going back to “business as normal”. The first part of the year seemed like it was going to be a continuation of 2020, but thankfully we were able to slowly resume services in person again with outdoor services at first, and then finally back to indoor services.

The music ministry has been adjusted somewhat to keep in line of all the safety protocols. Shifting more so being a cantor/organist role to lead the congregation in singing. I took that aspect of creating music and sharing the worship experience as a challenge to engage the congregation each weekend and to elevate the liturgical experience overall as well. For the major liturgical holidays, Easter was more so simplified still in accordance to caution, but for the Lessons and Carols, and Christmas eve service we were able to hire professional musicians to come play and sing for the services. With that experience, it was truly a wonderful and spiritually profound experience to share with the congregation.

The start of 2022 seems to be reversing a little with everything going on, but hoping that will change soon, and then we can ease back into the way things were beforehand. In hopes of that change, I am hoping to have the choir return in a modified version to celebrate and offer anthems that will equally elevate each liturgy with familiar anthems that everyone can equally share in the music making.

I can’t stress enough how St. Michael’s is always such a joy and rewarding place that I can call my spiritual home these past 6 years. I am looking forward to many more music making chances to come and continue my growth as a person.

Adam Behlen, Choir Director/Musician



## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

*Every Perfect Gift*

St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Our Stewardship efforts in 2021 were adversely affected by the limitations of our ability to gather in person. Plans for inviting speakers and gathering for fellowship events and enjoying our community were upended by the ongoing pandemic. However, and perhaps because of our limited times together, the people of St. Michael’s recognized the importance of our community. Even though we have spent nearly 18 months apart and we are still finding our way to be safely together, the Perfect Gift that God gives us in this community shines through.

We are grateful to all who were able to contribute to the mission and ministry of St. Michael’s in 2021. As our finance report shows, this made a real difference! And thank you to all who have stepped out in faith to pledge for our ongoing health and ministry in 2022. Because of your generosity we look forward with joy and confidence to doing God’s work in 2022.

The Stewardship Committee 2021—Florine, Jeanie, Jorge, Julie, Kathy & Melissa

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Along with so many other gatherings, the pandemic put the kibosh on in-person Sunday school. Our faithful group of teachers (Pattie, Jeanie and Florine) and students took an early hiatus in March of 2020 and even by January of 2021 they could not be back in person. And so, Sunday School at Home was born. Beginning in the Fall of 2020 and continuing throughout 2021 we have sent out *The Sunday Paper Junior* for each Sunday to each of our students. It has illustrated lessons and a bit of help for parents about how to engage the lessons. The ever-creative Florine added a craft activity for the month.



### A NOTE TO PARENTS

Our God is the God of nature—the God who made the whole creation, and all the life that teems in it, from whales to algae, from mosquitoes to maple trees to monkeys, and who, surveying it all on the seventh day, said, "This is good—this is very good—this is really great stuff!" Our God is robust and exuberant, an artist who is drunkenly in love with his own work. Our God bids his creatures to eat and be full, to rejoice and give thanks, to be fruitful and multiply. The Creed calls the Holy Spirit the "Giver of Life," a name for God which the Eastern Orthodox Church uses often in worship, and which would enrich our own prayer also if we used it more often.

When this God comes to earth, he preaches a Kingdom of abundant life, he heals and restores, he feeds the hungry, enriches the harvest of the waters, and raises a

But even as we are able to regather (we hope in fall of 2022), our Sunday school program will need to take into consideration the number and ages of our children. In addition, the faithful teachers of years past are ready to pass the baton, and we will need a new group of teachers. When we are able to gather more easily together, we will have to address the needs, interests, and ages of our students and who is willing to teach them. We have a wide range of ages, from high school to pre-school, and it will take some new eyes and hands to serve them. If you feel called to this ministry, please let us know!

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT

2021 was a busy year for Buildings and Grounds for the both school and the church.

### **School Maintenance**

Painting of the school trim was completed. We also did some additional painting and repaired hinges on back door of the kitchen and repainted that door.

As the Covid-19 restrictions eased for preschools, we removed the room divider so that there is once again a single main room for the school with furniture dividing the classrooms.

### **Locks and Keys**

The lower lock on the school staff bathroom was damaged and stopped working. Previously we had started to have problems on the sacristy door locks. We replaced both locks (knob and deadbolt) on both doors and new keys have been issued.

### **Grounds**

The sprinkler system had a major overhaul.

## Church Windows

Several decades of sun and weather was showing its age on the stained glass windows. The plastic window shields had discolored and frosted blocking the light and reducing the windows' beauty. The wood casements had been painted many times and needed to be stripped, repaired and repainted. After walk throughs and bids from four different stained glass companies—including Judson Studios, the original designer and fabricator of our windows—we contracted with Adamm's Stained Glass from Santa Monica. The work included removing the old plastic shields, cleaning and repairing the windows as necessary, and installing tempered glass protective shields with aluminum frames. We coordinated the stripping and painting of the window casements, done by local painter Dan XXX, with the protective work on the windows. It was all completed in a timely fashion and the light and color of the windows are much brighter inside the church. As an incidental note, Adamm's broke a small piece of glass on the Baptism window during the Plexiglas removal. They cut and matched the color of the broken glass and reinstalled the new piece.

Randy Albers, Buildings & Grounds Chair

## VETERANS' OUTREACH REPORT

Once a month St. Michael's and the El Segundo Community has been supporting a group of Veterans living in low income housing. Each of the 48 Veterans lives in a one bedroom apartment and receives support from social workers, peer support specialists and case workers from the VA and other veteran organizations. Support from the St. Michael's congregation and the community varies from month to month and in 2021 included:



January - homemade soup

February - Valentine's chocolates

March - meals from local ES restaurants funded by contributions from the community

April - Easter baskets filled with food and treats

May - All the items needed for a BBQ, including a grill donated by ES Rotary

June - fried chicken dinners

July - BBQ meal on the premises provided by the ES Rotary

August - cans of soup and cup of noodles to stock the pantry

September - BBQ meal provided by and prepared by Veterans from Chevron

October - Halloween pumpkins filled with food and treats

November - a home cooked Thanksgiving meal

December - Christmas gift packages, socks, homemade cookies, ornaments

We look forward to supporting these Veterans in 2022.

Thank you for your kindness and support.

Elizabeth

## **OUTREACH REPORT**

As we were able to come together again, our congregation was busy in 2021 addressing the needs of a variety of programs that are important to us. C.A.S.E., our local food pantry, is a constant for us and St. Michael's continues our generosity each month with the C.A.S.E. ingathering. C.A.S.E. supports families and individuals in El Segundo as they go through difficult times and currently there are 38 clients. Thank you to all who contribute to the food pantry each month.

Here are some acknowledgements from C.A.S.E. and other programs we supported in 2021.

### **From C.A.S.E. Food Pantry**

Thank you for your consistent donations of food and household items to C.A.S.E., the El Segundo food pantry. Your support allows us to help 31 El Segundo families who are in need at this time. Our hope is to keep these El Segundo families in their homes and not become homeless. Our clients thank you for your continued support. *Bebe Buchan, for the C.A.S.E. Volunteers*

### **From St. Luke's Shower Program**

Thank you for collecting undies for our shower program. Truly it makes a difference! *The Rev. Jane Gould, Rector*

### **From Family Promise**

We truly appreciate your ongoing commitment and patience as we plan for a smooth reopening for the original rotational shelter. Your support with grocery gift cards, homemade meals, and monetary donations has allowed us to keep providing the much-needed support for our families. *Liz Luevano, Family Promise Operations Manager*

### **From Chemocessories**

Thank you for all the wonderful donations! I delivered bags of jewelry, scarves, and head coverings to be cleaned and assembled into coordinating sets to lift the spirits of women undergoing treatment for cancer. Now Chemocessories is well stocked for creating sets to mail out in 2022. *Kathy Van Orden, Volunteer*

### **From Episcopal Relief and Development**

Thank you for your generous gifts to ERD to support our efforts and assistance in the face of hurricanes and wildfires. Your donations to help those impacted by Hurricane Ida and the Dixie wildfire in northern California are gratefully received and sent out to make a difference. We are stronger together. *Robert Radke, President*

Pattie McCaverty, Outreach Chairman

## **ALTAR GUILD REPORT**

Altar Guild is an important ministry in any church. Our church is small but we have eight very reliable and hardworking members of our altar guild. Each week two members come in and clean, vacuum, dust, polish and set up the church for services. After the services we also clean up and put things away until the next week. Many thanks to Dan (and Momi) for being so diligent in cleaning up after the 8am service each week. This makes our life so much easier!

Altar guild is also responsible for decorating the church for special services, i.e., Easter, Christmas, baptisms, Pentecost, etc. These special events usually require all members to work together. "Many hands make light work!"

Thank you to Florine Guy, Crystal Galloway, Gillian Madden, Jeanie Powell, Pattie McCaverty, Dan Ince and Momi Ince.

We also have four women who provide (and pay for) flowers for the altar each week. Thanks to Elizabeth Tobias, Florine Guy and Jeanie Powell.

If you are interested in any of these ministries, please let me know. We would love to have you join our ranks.

Melissa Albers, Altar Guild Director

## **FAMILY PROMISE ANNUAL REPORT**

We began 2021 with a goal to get back to normal and are deeply saddened that we were not able to rotate our homeless families among our congregations. Our hands on engagement with our homeless families and partner congregations is an essential part of who we are and what makes Family Promise so special. It is so much different than just giving money to a great organization! We were able to actually sit down to dinner with our homeless families and enjoy each other's company. We were able to meet the real people who needed our help and give them real hope with a program that works. We developed wonderful friendships with our partner congregations. In response to COVID and staying safer at home, First Christian Church hosted our rotational families again and throughout 2021. This is an incredibly generous gift! Congregations supported their host weeks again by donating gift cards for groceries and gas. Don't despair! The program still works! And there are still opportunities to volunteer, hands on, in the Children's Program.

Some really awesome things happened in 2021 and we actually served more families in 2021 than all previous years combined! We were able to serve over 400 individuals in our programs and 200 families through referrals!

### **Children's Program Greatly Expanded**

We offered a summer-long, full-day camp for children in the South Bay to have a safe place to learn, grow and have fun while their parents were working. Volunteers were welcome to help out. Julie Bergeron and I helped out at summer camp. I learned something amazing at volunteer orientation. Did you know that when kids and adults experience certain traumas, including homelessness and emotional and physical abuse, it alters their brain cells and can affect them for life? The amazing part is the brain has great capacity to heal itself! Children who have suffered homelessness and emotional and physical abuse can heal through love and trust and trauma-informed care! Summer camps and schools can help enormously. Unfortunately, we often only hear

about abuse taking place at a camp or school. Please think about the many loving, caring teachers and volunteers out there who earn children's love and trust everyday. That's a lot of healing!

We also offered distance learning support for those students who needed it. And we put on weekly and monthly activities, such as youth nights and mentorship. Volunteers were welcome to help out! The program provides relief to the children from their daily struggles and support for their future growth. We hope to fill the gaps that child homelessness creates.

### **Long Beach**

Long Beach has always been a part of our service area but we never had a chance to really engage. We very happily partnered with City Church in Long Beach after they gifted a home to us hoping we could use it for transitional housing. We now have three transitional homes!

### **Empty Bowls**

Our 9th Annual Empty Bowls fundraising event was held in person and virtually on Oct 9th. We met our goal of \$100,000!

### **Case Management**

Our children and families are engaged in case management on a regular basis. This holistic approach assesses their needs and provides access to resources necessary for our guests to move forward.

With love, Jeanie Powell, Family Promise Liaison

## **ST. MICHAEL'S CHILDREN'S CENTER REPORT**

2021 seems like such a blur. It was expected to be a better year than 2020 and COVID was supposed to slow down and go away. Unfortunately, that did not happen. The guidelines for operating during COVID felt like they were ever changing. Public Health eventually loosened restrictions on cohort sizes and grouping allowing us to increase capacity and begin our journey back to normal operating conditions.

In January, cohort sizes were increased to 14 so we could add more children in each class. We also began the process of adding Yeaton Hall to the preschool license so we could have a third classroom. By the end of February, teachers were getting vaccinated, the new room was approved to open, and more children were being enrolled.

March brought us three preschool classrooms and increased enrollment. We began the hunt for a new teacher so we could enroll to capacity. Unfortunately, the search for a teacher went on for months. No one was responding to the ads, and when they did, they did not show up for interviews. We were disappointed but believed we would get the right person at the right time, and until then, we just kept our groups small and stayed COVID free. By now it had been a year since the beginning of the pandemic and our little school had gone incident free. We were very proud of that.

April and May were mostly uneventful, which at this point was a good thing. The first PPP loan was forgiven, which was a big sigh of relief. I began holding virtual tours via Zoom since we were operating a closed campus. The two-year-old and infant waitlists doubled during this period.

In June, Public Health change most restrictions to recommendations allowing early childhood centers to return to their licensing capacities. This did not change much for us since we were still having difficulty hiring new teachers. We had our first event allowing parents back on campus.

The Pre-K children had socially distanced “moving up” celebration on the bike yard. They sang songs for their parents and received their preschool certificates.

July and August were mostly typical summer months. The children spent the summer learning about zoo animals. The staff was able to take turns taking time off for vacations. We had our first case of COVID on campus towards the end of August. No other children or staff were affected, and we continued on. At the end of August, we lost one of our favorite teachers to a new house in Menifee. It was a great move for her family, but we were sad to see her go. Our search for a new teacher became a bit more intense as a new school year was approaching and we still had no prospective teachers.

We started the new school year in September with three, nearly full preschool classrooms. In mid-September, a former employee referred a friend to us who ended up being a great fit for our infant/toddler program. This addition would allow us to increase enrollment to near capacity. The second PPP loan was forgiven in October. The new teacher began, and more children were enrolled. We allowed parents to come on campus for our annual Halloween Parade. The children were as cute as ever and parents were happy to have some sense of normalcy for their kids.

In November and December, we tried our best to give the children the most typical holiday season we could. We had a “Holiday Celebration” for families on a Saturday morning in lieu of our usual Christmas pageant. We set up everything outdoors and required everyone to always wear a mask. The children performed their dances from Webby Dance Co., sang a few songs with their parents, and ended with crafts and cookie decorating. The parents were very appreciative that we had *something* for the holiday. It was very nice, and everyone was thankful to be able to see and spend time with the other families. It was a wonderful way to end the year.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cherrington, Director



**ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS AND 2022 BUDGET**

**The financial statement and budget are available upon request.  
Contact [stmichaelssegundo@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelssegundo@gmail.com)**

# *St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church*

## **Staff**

The Rev. Dina Ferguson, D.Min., Rector  
Mr. Adam Behlen, Choir Director and Musician  
Mrs. Adrien Roberts Gonzalez, Bookkeeper

## **St. Michael's Children's Center**

Ms. Lauren Cherrington, Director

## **Vestry Members**

Melissa Albers, Sr. Warden    Jeanie Powell, Jr. Warden  
Julie Bergeron, Clerk        Jorge Cortes  
Florine Guy                    Kathy Van Orden  
Chris Powell, Treasurer

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