



St. Michael's
Episcopal Church

the Chronicles of Canterbury

december 2017

From the Rector

We Must Be Ready for Jesus' Coming

The parable of the ten bridesmaids is all about readiness. Half of them brought oil for their lamps, and half did not. The wise ones had oil with them; they were ready. They were prepared. The foolish ones did not have oil with them; they were unready. It's all about being ready. But ready for *what*? To meet the bridegroom. And who is that? It's Jesus.



Are you ready to meet Jesus? When Jesus said we need to be ready to meet him, he could just mean we need to be ready to meet him when we *die*. Whenever that is. But if that is all he is saying, I'm not sure what more there is to say. Because we are already assured

that through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. We already know that.

So, yes, Jesus is saying "be ready to meet me" when we die, but there's more to it than that. Jesus is saying we need to be ready to meet him when he comes, and he is coming when we least expect it. He is coming to us in our lifetime. Into our life now.

I believe Jesus is asking us to be ready to meet him as we go along on our journeys.

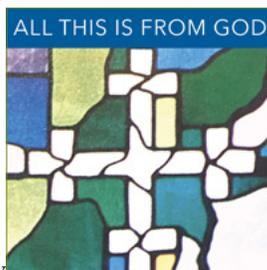
A wise woman — (Anna McLamb from our Vestry) — once said that there is a big lie many of us have lived by, and we need to stop. That lie is the idea that we are each the heroes of our own stories. We're not. We're not our own heroes. Moreover, we are not our own anti-heroes either. We are just who we are. (Read Anna's full remarks below.)

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Annual Fund 2008

Jesus, Not You, Is the Hero of Your Story

The greatest lie I ever believed was that I was the hero of my own story. It is a really appealing lie, and it's especially easy to believe in our modern, do it yourself times. I believed I could do it myself by working hard in school, getting a good job, working hard in that job, taking some cool vacations, and saving more than I spent. But when I was sure that it was my smarts, my hard work, and my professional network that had won me a comfortable lifestyle, when I was sure that I had done it myself, it just wasn't enough. I remember wondering if this was all that I had been working so hard for.



a stable family, stable government, economic opportunity for women as well as men, great affordable schools with excellent teachers, and the love and support and forgiveness and second chances given by so many people around me, was the larger part of that story, and that deeper, wider vision of God's love just fills me up.

The rector's epistle a few weeks ago got at the same idea. It said: "If we have joined with God's love and been given the wholeness we seek, then our response is to be grateful. We will give thanks. We will seek to share what we've been given for the common good, the common work, the common identity as members of the Body of Christ."

Being grateful to God is the antidote to the lie of

Those self-centered reasons were a part of the story, but coming to St. Michael's Sunday after Sunday, I began to see that God's love for me, in the gifts of good health,

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CANTERBURY SHOP HOURS

Monday-Friday

10 am.-1 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 – 10 am & 11:15 am - Noon

Lifelong Disciple

Jesus: Wondrous, Powerful & Life-Changing

When Stanley Hauerwas spoke at St. Michael's in October, he peppered his presentation with memorable and dense one-liners. One thing he said struck me especially hard, and this was his definition of cynicism. "*Cynicism,*" he said "*is the belief that we have nothing of value to pass on to the next generation.*" When he said this he was referring to the contemporary hesitancy to raise our children as strong Christians, raising them to see the world and develop a life-purpose through their Christian faith. "*We ask our children,*" Hauerwas said, "*to make up their minds [about the Faith] before they have minds to make up.*"

Jane and I are keen to raise our children, Corinne and Sebastian, as strong Christians. We want to support and nurture the life in Christ that began in them with baptism. Still, Hauerwas' comments forced me to ask myself if I am guilty of a little *Christian cynicism* as well. Perhaps I too had been infected with a kind of post-modern insecurity about my faith, a hesitancy to recommend the faith that is in me with strength and clarity.

Such *cynicism*, or what I might call religious insecurity, lives in the church at many levels. It stems, I think, from a lack of a conviction, or at least a lack of clarity, about how God as revealed in Jesus has impacted, inspired, and directed my life. If I can't say how the Christ has been real and determinative for me, if I can't describe how I am living my life in response to Him, then how can I expect my weak faith to be determinative for the next generations of humanity? If I am not grateful for the gift God gives us in Jesus' incarnation, death and resurrection, I won't see it as urgent to pass this Christianity on to others. We might still regard Christianity to be a good thing insofar as it provides a framework for morality or a motive for social action — but you can find morality and motivation for social action in any number of religions or ideologies.

If, however, I believe something wondrous, powerful, life-changing and universally true happened in the person of Jesus of Nazareth and the gift of God's Spirit, then I will naturally want other people, including my children, to have a deep relationship with Christ as well. If I am grateful to God for what he has revealed and given in Jesus, and what God has done in my life then I will naturally want to share this with others. Just as I want my children to enjoy music and art and sports as I enjoyed them, I will want, ten thousand times more, for them to be rooted in Christ and built up in him.

As we approach Christmas, I am thus challenging myself to reach beyond Christian insecurity and really get to grips with what I believe is of unique value in my experience of the God of Jesus Christ so that I can pass this faith on to the next generation.

Amid all the festivities, I would like my children to glimpse what it means for them and me and Jane "to hold Christ in their hearts with reverence as Lord." I would like them to understand that God, in this infant Jesus, is the center of our family and our household and is the Lord of the life we share as a family. I would like them to know how and why I am grateful to God because of what he has done in Jesus, and to sense the same possibility for themselves.

Finally, I would like them to understand that the most basic choice every human being faces is whether we are going to be Herods or Magi in response to Jesus. Are we going to



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resist God's Kingship in order to maintain control of our small Kingdom, or are we are going to bow down and surrender everything that we are to Jesus and the Incarnate Word of God, allowing him to guide and shape us? Perhaps my children will come to understand something I am only beginning to glimpse in middle-age, that maybe there is no middle ground between being a Herod or a Magi, that if we refuse the choice to be like the Magi, we are inevitably turned by the world into becoming little (or big) Herods.

God comes among us this Christmas in the infant Jesus, in Bethlehem. He is worshipped by the Magi and feared by Herod. As lifelong disciples, journeying with our children and parents, our grandchildren and grandparents, let us kneel together before the infant Christ, Incarnate Word. Come, let us adore him!

— The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth

Rector

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But the world wants to over-glorify our self-image, or shake our self-confidence, to make us either absurdly proud or nihilistically ashamed. And so we live in a world inflamed by puffed up egos or torched by the void of despair.

What we need are not false images about ourselves, but the truth. And that is: We aren't all that. We are each of us partly wise and partly foolish beings. Like the 10 bridesmaids, we are all *foolish* and *wise*. We are not enough on our own, yet we are still desired by God who has made us and invites us to prepare ourselves to join with him. To be ready to meet the Lord, not only when we die, but much sooner than that.

Those who wait until later to meet the Lord, will most certainly not be ready. No, we must get and be ready – now. And how? God provides! By God's grace, we are given in prayer and the seeking of wisdom *sacred oil for our lamps*, and the warmth and light of hope in knowing the bridegroom has come – to join with us as our companion in the way.

Be ready friends. Be ready to run sometimes. Be ready to hide. Be ready to fight. But above all — be ready to meet Jesus as you live.

The season of Advent is entirely about our making ourselves ready to meet the Lord who is coming not at the end of life, but at the beginning of a new life.

— The Rev. Samuel Gregory Jones

NOVEMBER AT ST. MICHAEL'S



November was a busy month for parishioners at St. Michael's. Above, families participated in the annual sweet potato gleaning, and below, the Men's Ministry sponsored the annual Oyster Roast featuring Damascus Ridge.



Full of Grace and Gratitude for All God's Gifts

Gifts of Grace abound at the annual parish alternative gift market. A few pictures show the joy of the day.



The Gifts of Grace Committee would like to express its profound gratitude to all who participated in making our 15th year of this incredible ministry a success. From the 21 agencies and ministries present at Gifts of Grace; to the St. Michael's clergy and staff who supported our efforts with prayer, encouragement, and hard work setting and cleaning up; to our phenomenal ECW chapters who provided goodies for sale; to all who entered through the doors of the Parish Hall to financially support this, we offer our heartfelt thanks. St. Michael's never fails to open both heart and wallet in response to the words in Matthew: "Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'" (Matthew 25:44-45).

Parishioners were able to shop among the 21 agencies and sample homemade pimento cheese and Lou Dohme's Gorgonzola dressing while also purchasing yeast rolls, bean soup mix, and mason jar cookie mixes. Even our first, second, and third grade Sunday School classes enjoyed participating as they walked around the Parish Hall with their Gifts of Grace fact-finding sheets in hand searching out answers to questions about the various agencies.

We are excited to be able to tell you how much Gifts of Grace raised; however, at the time of this writing, we do not have final figures. We look forward to sharing those numbers and amounts with you as soon as all donations have been received. Because of your generosity, these donations for the 21 well-deserving agencies/ministries will enrich and support those in need in our community.

Thanks be to God!

— Karen Wagoner, Gifts of Grace Committee



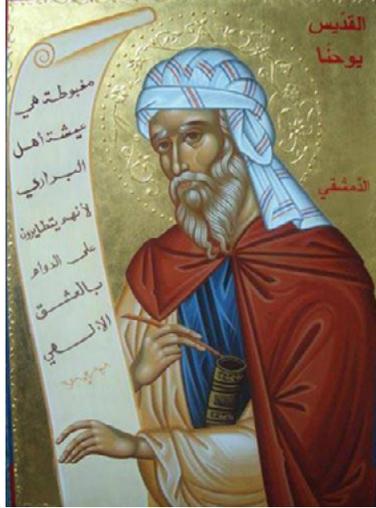
For All the Saints

John of Damascus: Hymn Writer and Theologian

As many of you know, I'm a bit of a music addict. I've never been late to church (well, there was that time growing up when we missed the change of time...) because I can't abide missing out on singing a hymn. And no, I don't ever skip out after the Eucharist to get a good seat in a restaurant for brunch. I'd miss out on both the final hymn *and* the Postlude!

This month's saint is John of Damascus, a hymn writer far and away more theologian than hymn writer. His hymns are familiar — at Easter, don't we love to sing, "Come, ye faithful, raise the strain," and "The day of resurrection"? They are classics in our Anglican tradition.

Around 700 AD, John was born to a father who was a Christian tax collector for the Mohammedan Caliph of Damascus. John followed in his father's footsteps, but then felt called to a more ascetic life. He entered a monastery outside of Jerusalem where he could study his passion: the early Church Fathers.



was decreed that icons, crosses, the book of the Gospels and other such sacred objects, were to receive veneration. It was further agreed that the use of lights, candles, incense, etc., were once again permitted to aid in such veneration. *Worship* on the other hand, was to be given to God alone.

John was best known for his book on theology entitled, *The Fount of Knowledge*. The last part, "On the Orthodox Faith," is the best known.

He died Dec. 4, 749, at Mar Saba, Jerusalem, the date on which we celebrate his life. He is the patron saint of pharmacists, icon painters and theology students.

I've been painting icons myself for several years. Each year I take sabbatical to delve into this ancient process as part of my spiritual practice. I'll share with you how icons are created in the January issue of Archangel.

— The Rev. Holly M. Gloff

In 726, there were two major occurrences in John's life. He was ordained a priest, and Emperor Leo the Isaurian ordered that "Holy Images," be destroyed, beginning the formal outbreak of what's called the Iconoclastic Controversy. People were no longer allowed to venerate sacred images or icons, and Leo further ordered the destruction of *all* icons. This was the most popular way in which most people worshipped God outside of their attendance at church services. It was a crushing blow to the people of the Byzantine world.

John wrote three treatises against the Iconoclasts and in Defense of the Holy Images. His argument stated that these beautifully painted icons were not in fact idols, and neither did represent false gods. They were merely pictures of saints and of God incarnate as a man, Jesus. He further explained that there is a difference between *veneration*, which is more akin to respect, which is a perfectly acceptable way in which to treat other people, and *worship*, which rightly should only be given to God.

There was a logical reason why all this occurred at the time in history that it did. The Monophysite heresy was very popular, and it held that Christ had only *one* nature, and that nature was divine. It is not proper to make artistic representations of the divine. This heresy was condemned at the Council of Chalcedon in 451. Manicheism was also a popular heresy, and it held that all matter was evil and thus the Lord's incarnation was rejected. After all, how could God become something evil like a physical being? Both heresies agreed that there was only *one* nature of Christ, and he was divine.

In these heresies, John argued that the Incarnation of Jesus was being rejected. The 7th Ecumenical Council in 787, it

OWLS Christmas Party

DECEMBER 17
2-4 P.M.
CONVOCATION ROOM

Please stop in to visit
and enjoy some
wine, punch,
and refreshments!

Sharing Our Gifts for the Work of St. Michael's

"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." These words are from Romans 12, the New Testament reading on August 27 that anchored Robert's amazing sermon. It struck me as he spoke that I was being handed the perfect message for the Annual Fund campaign. I had struggled to find the words that might speak to the church as a whole while respecting the unique situation (and intelligence) of my fellow parishioners.

Well, it's hard to improve on Paul: "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." Yes, our gifts may differ, but as the beneficiaries of God's grace we are all called upon to give in some measure. The size of our gifts is a matter of conscience and circumstance, but not the *fact* of them. Paul asks us to "think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."



Over the past two months many of you have already done this. Thank you so much! Thanks as well to those of you who will make your pledge in the days to come. Every gift matters and means so much to the life and work of St. Michael's. I have been humbled and inspired by the powerful testimonies from Rick Guirlinger, Zack Griffin, Hugh Stevens, Anna McLamb and Michael Ferguson, in which each has shared his or her reasons for giving to St. Michael's and what this place means to them.

MCLAMB

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doing it yourself.

The message of this year's stewardship campaign follows the exact same theme: All this is from God. All of this. Not just what you see here in this sanctuary, but in your experiences when you leave here: in your relationships with family and friends and strangers, in your home, at your job, and everywhere else. You are a large part of your story, but the Christian perspective is that you're not the hero. The good news, to me the best news, is that you don't *have* to be the hero, because Jesus is. All of this is from God.

If you come to St. Michael's enough that you get that, at least while you're here in these pews, then maybe you ought to pledge?

Of course, many of you have pledged. You've told us how much money you think you can give to the operation and mission of this church next year, and I am so grateful to you.

Pledges mean we can plan, and when we plan, we get things done. Power bills and floor tiles, yes, but also Sunday services and Sunday School and coffee; salaries and employee healthcare; Bible study and choir; youth groups and senior groups. and outreach projects and collections and grants to many community organizations.

If you haven't pledged yet, send an e-mail with your pledge amount to [Charlotte Griffin](mailto:Charlotte.Griffin@holymichael.org), or find the link to pledge online at holymichael.org/give. If you still have your pledge card, great, but don't worry about searching your house for it if it's gone missing. There are plenty available at church.

And think about what this Church means to you, from the feeling you get when you're taking communion, to the enrichment you get from classes and discussion

Perhaps you already saw this, but the words from Greg's Epistle of November 1 bear repeating: "Making a commitment and a promise to the church is a primary act of discipleship. It is a basic expression of gratitude for the mercy and love we receive from God." Michelle and I feel such gratitude for the privilege of serving St. Michael's in our small way. We love being a part of this church family and we have complete confidence that we will reach our goal of \$1.6 million and near universal participation.



Thank you again and God bless,

— John & Michelle Connell
2018 Annual Fund Chairs

groups, to the relief you feel (whether you have small kids or not) because of the free child care we provide during church, to the fulfillment you get from the outreach opportunities and the connections you make in our fellowship groups.

And then ask yourself, not what you can give, but what you can invest, next year in the practices and experiments we do here every day at St. Michael's to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth.

It doesn't even have to be much. The hardest goal we set every year in stewardship is the percentage of families participating. Do you know what that goal is? I'll tell you. It's 100%.

Just pledge what feels right, and if that won't work, then pledge what will.

— Anna McLamb

Listen to Mike Ferguson's remarks on the Annual Fund on holymichael.org.



Jason Schindler,
left, Abby Van
Noppen and the
Middle School
Bible Study
team.

Youth Ministry Is My Ministry

I have worked within youth ministries, in one capacity or another, for almost 13 years. I can say with confidence that there is nothing quite like it. If I had to describe youth ministry in two words it would be “Incredible Impact.” Incredible impact on the youth, on the parents, and on myself. There are few, if any, places in this world where one can both play dodgeball and talk about your relationship with God. To say that I am blessed to be a part of this ministry is an understatement.

Working with the youth is the whole reason I came back to the church. I was pretty active in my church’s youth group up until my junior year of high school. It was around that time that I started to drift away from both the church and from my faith. It wasn’t until about half way through college, when I started to volunteer with the youth, that my journey of faith really began. I started volunteering because I was close with the youth director and it was fun — who doesn’t love paintball, rock climbing and games? I was not looking for a relationship with God when I started, but He had different plans.

Over many Bible study lessons and devotions about love, self control, forgiveness, compassion and faith, it started to sink in. I was surrounded by youth (some a full decade younger than I) who knew how to let go and accept Jesus. And yet I was so focused on trying to make God tangible and trying to control what I thought faith was. I was in awe of 9th graders who knew how to let God be God and to just accept His love and grace. Inspiration came from the 7th graders who despite the daily challenges of middle school, each day lived by Jesus’s example. It was from this love and faith that I accepted that I do not have all the answers and my own spiritual journey began.

This year’s St Michael’s EYC Annual Kick-Off Ice Cream Social set the tone and energy for the whole year. After a summer of missions (REACH for high school and Missionpalooza for middle school), the youth were ready to be back at EYC. This was the first event for the new 6th graders, and it was the largest yet. Old friendships were rekindled and new ones were formed as teams bonded through get-to-know-you games, relay races, and rock-paper-scissor tournaments. If you’ve never been privy to a 70-person rock-paper-scissor competition I would recommend adding that to your to-do list.



That energy carried us to our fall retreat at Camp Cheerio. This year 30 youth and 6 adult volunteers spent an amazing weekend in the mountains with our theme “How to be Awesome.” Throughout the weekend we had small groups to discuss ideas like “If you want to be Awesome, follow your guide,” and “If you want to be Awesome don’t walk alone.” These were just a few topics about being awesome though God, love, and our faith. It was an incredible retreat filled with fellowship, small groups, and most importantly, FUN.

Youth ministry is my ministry. It is my call from God to serve. The saying goes “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” I love working with the youth and it fills me with the Holy Spirit. It is a calling I do without hesitation, whether it’s to help out Wednesdays with Bible studies, Sundays with EYC, going to the mountains for a retreat, or taking a week off work to sleep in a school for Reach mission. Getting to be a part of a youth’s life while they grow and mature in God’s grace is truly incredible. These relationships don’t end after high school but continue to grow. Some of my closest friends are youth from my past who have grown up themselves. The youth I minister to and the youth that minister to me have helped shape who I am today. I thank God every morning for it.

— Jason Schindler, Youth Ministry Volunteer

Mission Team Works in Goldsboro; Week-Long Trip to Houston Upcoming

More than a year ago, Hurricane Matthew dropped record amounts of rain on eastern North Carolina, destroying or damaging many thousands of homes. All have not yet been repaired or replaced, and many people and their families remain displaced. On Saturday, Oct. 21, St. Michael's Adult Missions Committee sponsored a relief team for a day-long project in Goldsboro, organized by the Baptist Men and Women Disaster North Carolina Relief Program.

Under sunny skies, Jeff Sural, John and Meg McHenry, Philip Lambe, Tammy Johnson-Wait and husband George gathered at St. Michael's hit the road for Goldsboro. Our first stop was Pineview Baptist Church, where we signed forms, were served breakfast, picked up prepared lunches, and received an initial orientation. Together with at least three other mission teams headed out to different locations, we gathered in prayer to ask for God's blessing on the day. Meg recalls the friendliness of the hosts at Pineview, who were up bright and early to make sure that everything the teams would need to be successful in their repair efforts was in place and ready to go. After our group prayer, we met with "Harold," who was to be our assigned foreman for the day. Harold, a licensed electrician, joined the Baptist program as a full time volunteer, telling us that he found himself busier and more satisfied than at any time during his many years as an electrician.

Harold then led us to the home of Miss Patricia Colby. Flooding had damaged much of her kitchen and bathroom, and some of the initial work had already been started by earlier volunteer teams. Picking up where they left off, our job was to remove damaged linoleum flooring and cabinets, tear out soggy sheet rock walls, and replace rotten floor joists, all in a very tight working space. As we worked, Miss Patricia quietly exuded her strong sense of faith, gratitude and peace as she chatted with us during the day, shared stories, and gave us a glimpse of her life. Under Harold's humble guidance, we crawled under floors to screw and nail in floor joists, eventually completing a structurally sound frame ready for the next team to begin to lay in the new flooring. Perhaps the most gratifying time of the day came as we finished the site cleanup and prepared to leave Miss Patricia's home to head back to Raleigh. Miss Patricia insisted that *she* lead us in a closing prayer. And what a wonderful



prayer it was. She thanked God for us being there. She prayed for each and every one of us, and she prayed for our families, and for our church family. It couldn't have been a more meaningful, spiritual and loving end to a day in which we reached out to her, yet she returned more than we could have ever expected.

With that memory we go forward with God toward the next step: participating in a Diocesan mission week to help victims of Hurricane Arthur in the Houston area. The dates are not yet set, but we have heard that Bishop Sam Rodman is planning on joining the team. Coordinating St. Michael's participation are [Vaughan Wagoner](tel:919-601-2880) 919-601-2880) and [Nanci Atkeson](tel:919-601-2880). If you are interested, we urge you to contact either of these leaders to learn more.

—Phil Lambe, Meg McHenry and John McHenry



Above: Jeff Sural and George Wait remove plaster wall between kitchen and bathroom; far left team pic at day's end with Miss Patricia; top photo: Phil Lambe is a mainstay on our mission team.

Planning for Belize Mission 2018 Underway

It's hard to imagine, but planning for our 2018 Belize Mission is already underway! We have again pre-reserved a 15-person block of airline tickets; but numbers always vary a bit from that initial guesstimate. This far in advance, we can't anticipate what we may be assigned to do, but last year's team worked on several construction and rehab projects while also repainting the main school sign, which had been destroyed the previous summer by Hurricane Earl. Others volunteered in a myriad of needs-based areas: helping with the Sewing Center; cataloging resources for the Special Needs Curriculum, and even providing Nutrition counseling as part of a San Pedro Health Fair. And, because our team was on campus during the [Holy Cross Anglican School](#) spring break, we were able to offer a Vacation Bible School for the younger children, attracting an average of about 50 a day. This year, we will again be on campus during their spring break time (the week following Easter Sunday), so we are planning to host a Bible School.



Join the team: St. Michael's has been sending mission teams to Holy Cross Anglican School for more than 10 years. Won't you spend Easter Week with us next year?

Evenings are spent with time set aside for prayer, reflection, and singing before heading out to dinner as a group. As we have for many years, the Ocean Tides Beach hotel will be our home away from home on the island; they always provide a warm welcome, good service, and a place for our team to gather for evening Compline. Because we volunteer at the school, they are also very generous in offering us a substantial discount over standard booking rates, as many of their employees have children that attend Holy Cross.

While "The Tides" has a great beachfront location to "hang out," workdays are often hot and demanding. Each day we make the short-walk up the beach and cross the bridge before heading left into the HCAS campus – where an entirely different world presents itself. HCAS was built where it is because of the desperate conditions of the people living in the San Mateo community --- lacking reliable clean-water and electricity, undrained roads, and no sanitary sewage. Many of the children living in San Mateo attend HCAS, and we will get to meet or re-unite with a number of them and their families. If you join the team, you will become part of the very meaningful, long-term commitment that binds St. Michael's and HCAS in the love of God.

When we arrive in Belize City on Saturday, March 31, we plan to stay at the Coningsby Inn, just down the street from the Anglican Cathedral. The following morning, we will attend Easter Sunday services at the Cathedral, always a moving experience. A good overall estimate of the total trip cost is between \$1,500 and \$1,600, including round-trip airfare, all ground transportation, all lodging, all food, and even an afternoon of recreation/sight-seeing. The Adult Missions Committee recognizes that amount may be out of reach for some persons; thus, we have scholarships available as well as other suggestions to help with personal fund-raising. Our annual Coffeehouse, an evening of great coffee, snacks, desserts and a cool variety show, helps defray other team expenses that add up in addition to personal costs.

If you are thinking that God may be calling you to join the team this year, please continue to seek His guidance as well as gather whatever additional information you may need. The trip is open to adults and youth that have reached their 16th birthday by the time of team departure. Passports are needed if you do not have one. Many more details will be provided at the

Informational Meeting, Sunday, Jan. 14, at 11:30 a.m. (Room TBD). Please contact [John McHenry](#) (919-306-3659) for more information.

— John McHenry, Belize Team Leader

2018 DATES TO REMEMBER

Initial Informational Meeting:

Sunday, January 14 (After Adult Sunday School)

Youth Applications Due: Wednesday, February 14
(Allows Adult Missions Committee Review)

Commitment Deadline: Wednesday, February 28
(Needed for Group Ticket Block)

Coffeehouse Planning Meeting:
Sunday, March 4 (After Adult Sunday School)

Team Orientation Meeting:
Sunday March 11 (After Adult Sunday School)

Team Commissioning:
Sunday, March 11 or March 18 (TBD)

Coffeehouse: Saturday, March 24, 7 p.m.

Final Preparation Meeting
Sunday, March 25, after Adult Sunday School, all forms due)

Departure:
Saturday, March 31, ~6:10 a.m, arrive BZE ~10:10 a.m.
(may change slightly)

Return:
Saturday April 7 ~1p.m. arrive RDU ~10:30 p.m.
(may change slightly)

BRIEFLY



Choir of Clare College Holiday Concert

Join us December 11 at 7:30 p.m. for a magnificent concert of music for Advent and Christmas sung by one of England's finest collegiate choirs.

The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge and their director Graham Ross present a sumptuous Christmas program in praise of the Virgin Mary and the coming of the light. Renaissance masterpieces, including Tallis's sublime 'Videte miraculum' and Hieronymus Praetorius's Christmas Magnificat (performed with its original interpolated carols) sit alongside more recent much-loved seasonal works, including motets by Howells, Britten, Tavener, Rutter and Ross, and some highly-catchy arrangements guaranteed to put you in the festive mood. A perfect start to the Christmas season.

Since the founding of a mixed voice choir in 1972, the Choir of Clare College has gained an international reputation as one of the world's leading university choirs. In addition to its primary function of leading services three times a week in the college chapel, the choir keeps an active schedule recording, broadcasting, and performing. Former directors have included John Rutter and Timothy Brown. Under the direction of Graham Ross, Director of Music since 2010, it has been praised for its consistently 'thrilling' and 'outstanding' performances worldwide.

This is a rare opportunity for us! Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Purchase online at HolyMichaelMusic.org. Contact [Kevin Kerstetter](mailto:Kevin.Kerstetter@holymichael.org) for more information.

Sung Compline December 17

The ancient liturgy of Compline, which can be found in our Book of Common Prayer, has its roots in the 4th century. Also known as Night Prayer, Compline is the traditional Christian liturgy for the completion of the day. It is a contemplative service, offering a tranquil time for peaceful reflection and prayer.

Sung Compline will be offered at St. Michael's on the third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. The service, which lasts about 30 minutes, will be sung in a darkened church, requiring nothing of those who attend other than being with us in the presence of God. A small group of singers will sing an introit, prayers, a psalm, the Nunc dimittis, and the beautiful anthem "A Spotless Rose" composed by Paul Mealor. Join us for what may be one of your most peaceful moments during the busy month of December.

Newcomer Classes Begin in January

If you are new to St. Michael's and interested in learning more about our parish, we offer a series of newcomer classes in January. Learn about our parish history and the many ways you can become involved in our parish life, through these clergy-led classes required of all who seek membership at St. Michael's.



Classes will meet on Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 6:15 p.m. Child care is provided with advance reservation.

In February, the clergy will lead three classes in The Christian Faith, for all those new to the Episcopal Church and for parents seeking baptism for their children.

Contact [Lee Hayden](mailto:Lee.Hayden@holymichael.org) to reserve your spot!

Parenting Class 2018

Are you the parent of a young child and sometimes feel overwhelmed? What better place for you to seek advice except at church?

St. Michael's will offer a long-standing parenting class on Sunday, Jan. 21- Feb. 11. The theme of the class will be "How to build connections that will last a lifetime."

The class will be led by pediatrician Bob Munt, and Mary Snow Crawley, former training consultant for Project Enlightenment, an early childhood program of the Wake County Public School System. Both are members of St. Michael's.

Both Bob and Mary Snow are experts in the field of early child development. They'll answer your questions and present topics with wisdom and humor. You won't want to miss this class, popular with parents of all ages.

December Men's Ministry

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7 a.m. in the Parish Hall

• Band of Brothers Lunch
Monday, Dec. 18, noon, Sawmill Tap Room, 7701 Lead Mine Rd, Raleigh, 27615

• Brothers On Tap
Thursday, Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m.
Nickelpoint Brewing—Come enjoy a pint and fellowship!(506 Pershing Rd, Raleigh, NC 27608)



Newcomer classes begin in January
Intro To St. Michael's
Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31
6:15 p.m.
hayden@holymichael.org for reservations



Words & Wisdom
No December Meeting

d e c e m b e r

**DECEMBER 3**

Annual Meeting,
No Sunday Forum

DECEMBER 10

Holy Grounds with the
writers of St. Michael's

December 17

Our traditional parish
carol sing, this year with
musicians from [Kidznotes](#),
a local program that
engages children in intense,
integrated, musical study
and orchestral performance.



LIFELONG DISCIPLE

GIVE TO THE ANGEL TREE

Each year, St. Michael's families choose angels from our Angel Tree, helping to bring Christmas cheer to families at StepUp Ministries. We hope you'll join us in this important ministry.

- Choose an angel or group of angels. We group by families, to make gift distribution more equal between children. We encourage friends and family members to join in adopting a family for Christmas.
- Each angel is numbered with a family unit #.
- In the notebook, please sign your name by the corresponding number(s)
- Please wrap the gift or gifts and be sure they are clearly tagged with the code number of the angel, plus the child's name.
- Place the gifts under the tree no later than Sunday, Dec. 17.
- No time to shop? Choose a grocery angel. Attach a \$25 check to an angel and place in the angel tree box next to the tree. Each of the 25 families represented will receive a \$50 Food Lion gift card.

Christmastide Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve

**10 a.m. Family Eucharist
& Children's Pageant**

4:30 p.m. Prelude
St. Michael's Choir
brass, tampini and harp

5 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist

10:30 p.m. Prelude with St. Michael's St.
Michael's Choir
brass, tampini and harp

11 p.m.
Christmas Eve Eucharist

Monday, Dec. 25
10 a.m. Christmas Day Eucharist

Tuesday, Dec. 26
Offices closed

Sunday, Dec. 31
Holy Eucharist
8 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church



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Deadlines:

- *Canterbury Tales*:
noon Wednesday before
Sunday publication
- *Chronicles of Canterbury*:
Monday, Jan. 15



Our EYC annual Scavenger Hunt was a rousing success, with our youth collecting more than 800 pounds of canned goods for Urban Ministries of Wake County. For more on our Youth Ministry, see page 7.