

# The Red Door

## JANUARY 2026

### MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

### Welcome to the New Year

We had a wonderful Christmas at St. Michael's with full houses, beautiful music and candlelight surrounding the sacred story of Jesus' birth. But as I pointed out in my Christmas sermon, the story of God's love coming into the world in Jesus doesn't end in the stable. It continues in and through us.

Michael Dougherty penned this "Prayer for Continuing the Work of Christmas:"

"When the carols have been stilled, When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home, When we are back to our schedules,  
The work of Christmas begins: To welcome the refugee, To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry, To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear, To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people, To bring Christ's light to the world."

This is our calling each and every day: to bring the light of Christ's love into a broken world that so desperately needs it.

We have a **lot** of things going on in January and February. Please read this issue of the Red Door and mark your calendar so you don't miss out.

We have **neighborhood gatherings** each week in January. These are opportunities to come together to hear about the budget and plans for 2026. January is **stewardship season**. You should have received a stewardship packet and pledge card in November. If you did not (or you don't know where it went) you can pick one up in the back of church or in the office. Our expenses continue to rise, so your financial support is crucial as we strive to continue to thrive and grow and spread the love of God.



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We also have our annual **parish retreat with Bishop Brian and Staci Prior** January 23-25. You can attend all or part of this experience. Bishop Brian has led a retreat for us for several years now, and it is always an inspiring time together. You can find the details in this newsletter.

Then, coming up in February, we are thrilled that the **Rev. Brian McLaren** will be here for the Interfaith Shared Scholar forum at Sanibel United Church of Christ and a follow up gathering at St. Michael's the next day. Make plans to attend!

As you can see, we have some wonderful opportunities to gather and be inspired to continue the work of Christmas!

*Peace, Bill+*

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## From the Book of Common Prayer

### *Prayer for Joy in God's Creation*

*O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty; Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*  
(BCP 814)

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## 2026 Offering Envelopes

**will be available in the Gallery this weekend for those who requested. If you would like a box for 2026, please contact Pat or Susan G. in the Church Office.**

## Welcome Back!!

As you settle back in Florida, don't forget to let Susan in the Church Office know of your return. Call, e-mail or just stop in and say "Hi." We are always happy to see you.



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## Nominating Committee Report

*Nominating Committee: Jerry Davenport, Chair; Bruce Pattison, Nancy Marshall, Betsy McCullough and Chuck Sterret.*

At the December Vestry Meeting the following members were presented and unanimously approved:

**Paula MacIlwaine (2026-2029)**  
**Joanne Syversen (2026-2029)**  
**Sandy Winans (2026-2029)**

*Bios of Nominees are located on pages 17 & 18.*

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## Bible Study with the Rector

**Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.**

**via ZOOM**

**Resumes January 8<sup>th</sup>**



Join the Rector – The Rev. Bill Van Oss – as he leads a lectionary-based Bible study using the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. Join meeting at:

**ZOOM Meeting ID#: 829 7038 4775**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82970384775>  
or contact Susan in the church office.

# St. Michael & All Angels

## 2025-26 Stewardship Campaign

### Co-Chairs Sue Sterrett & Susie Wilson

Hi everyone! By now you should have received a packet with details of the Stewardship campaign for 2026 and the upcoming Neighborhood Gatherings. Please contact the church office if you didn't receive yours.

This month we will begin the Stewardship neighborhood gatherings. We hope you can attend one. Let us know if you would like to attend by contacting the person listed for the night you would like to attend.



**Tuesday, January 13 – SHELL POINT**  
**Ann & John Stephens**

**Thursday, January 15 – FORT MYERS**  
**Jenny Hauber**

**Tuesday, January 20 – SHELL POINT**  
**Carolyn & Ralph Clark**

**Thursday, January 22 – FORT MYERS**  
**Susie Wilson**

**Tuesday, January 27 – SANIBEL**  
**Lena & Steve Brown**

**Thursday, January 29 – SANIBEL**  
**Wendy McGaha**

The gatherings will be from **5:00 – 6:30 p.m.** Learn about the latest happenings at St. Michael & All Angels. Find out how you can get involved and meet new people. It is a great way to meet each other, from all the different services in a smaller, more intimate setting.

We hope you will join us. Please contact the host above. We look forward to seeing you!

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.”*  
(*Psalm 136:1*)

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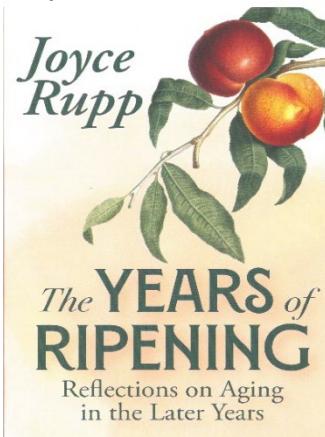
## Spirituality in Later Life –

### Next Gathering Monday, January 12 | 3:00 p.m.

Our Spirituality in Later Life group continues its gentle, grace-filled journey into the gifts of sacred aging on Monday, January 12 at 3:00 p.m. at **The Cove in the Estuary at Shell Point**. No RSVP required.

These monthly gatherings are not focused on the practical “to-do list” of later years—important as those things are. Instead, our time together centers on **spiritual growth and personal transformation as we age**: noticing the ways God is still shaping us, honoring the wisdom we carry, and claiming more fully the personhood God continues to reveal in later life. It’s a space for honest conversation, shared reflection, and encouragement on the road we walk together. Conversations are structured so that everyone can engage fully, whether or not you’ve had time to read. We are using Joyce Rupp’s beautiful reflections, *The Years of Ripening*, as a companion for our journey. It is a wonderful book and worth a read for anyone in later stages of life.

~ Fr. Bill





**SANIBEL ISLAND**

**SANIBEL 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
CITY OF SANIBEL**

Fr. Bill will be giving the invocation and St. Michael's will have a table at the celebration and offering parking in our lot.

**Honoring Our Past, Charting Our Future**

**TIME CAPSULE INSTALLATION**  
SATURDAY JANUARY 10, 2026 11:00AM  
THE CITY OF SANIBEL-CITY HALL

• • •

**Lunch & Legacy:  
GATHERING TOGETHER AT THE TABLE**

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING-BEHIND CITY HALL  
As our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration comes to a close, we invite you to be a part of a special moment in the City of Sanibel's history—the installation of the new time capsule! Join us as we preserve memories, messages, and mementos from 2024-2025 to be rediscovered in 2049. Together, we've celebrated five golden decades and look ahead to the next generation of island life, laughter, and legacy.

**Food-Family-Friends-Community-Music-and More!**

800 Dunlop Road - Sanibel, FL



**GATHER AT THE TABLE**

**NEW SESSION IS STARTING JANUARY 11,  
HELD IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY AFTER  
COFFEE HOUR ON SUNDAYS  
(APPROXIMATELY NOON-1:30PM.  
SIMPLE LUNCH INCLUDED)  
RSVP NOW TO HOLD YOUR SPOT!**

Sharing a simple meal, reading C. S. Lewis' Mere Christianity as we go (books provided), and talk about how God is moving in our lives. All are welcome—no prior reading needed.

RSVP to Doreen at [pathways@saintmichaels-sanibel.org](mailto:pathways@saintmichaels-sanibel.org)

**Come Hungry- Body and Soul!  
Part of Spiritual Pathways @ St. Michael's**





## Peacemakers

A MESSY CHURCH ABOUT PEACE AND  
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE  
PEACEMAKERS IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES

**Sunday**  
**Jan. 11, 2026**  
**5:00-6:30pm**

**St. Michael's Parish Hall**  
**2304 Periwinkle, Sanibel**

**What does it mean to be a peacemaker?  
Is Jesus just talking about people who are  
peaceful? In today's world, full of divisive  
behavior, wars, and more, it's worth  
exploring what it means to make peace.**

**Crafts, activities, games, music,  
storytelling and free dinner!**

Episcopal Church Women welcomes  
Brittnay Laster of CROW as she presents:



## The Rescue of Wildlife

Monday January 12, 2026  
ECW Business meeting 12:15pm

Lunch served 12:30pm  
Program 1:00pm  
St. Michael's Parish Hall



The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) was founded in 1968 by Shirley Walters, a postwoman on Sanibel Island. Shirley spotted a royal tern that was unfortunately hit by a car on the causeway. Instead of continuing past, she made the split decision to stop and rescue it, eventually working with a veterinarian (Dr. Phyllis Douglas) to successfully release CROW's first patient. Though CROW wouldn't receive its name for a few years, that fateful day in '68 created a cascade of effects that would allow CROW to become what it is today.

Florida is one of the top 10 most biodiverse states within the United States. So unsurprisingly, CROW admits an average of 6,000 patients every year, with roughly 230-250 different species. The most common class of wildlife is birds at 60-70% of the annual patient load, followed by mammals at 25-30%, reptiles at ~10%, and amphibians at less than 1% of the overall patient load. CROW will admit patients for a variety of reasons, but some of the most common are: orphaned/abducted, hit by a car, dog/cat attack, and entanglement.

Listen in as we learn about CROW, what rescue to release entails, and how YOU can help keep patients out of our hospital by donating your time, talent, or treasure.

# Celebrate Epiphany with Star Words

At our services on **January 3-4**, we'll celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany**—the season when the Magi followed a star that led them to Jesus. As part of our celebration, you're invited to receive an **Epiphany star** with a single word on it—your **Star Word**—to serve as a simple prayer practice for the year ahead.

A Star Word is an “intention word” you hold gently in prayer and reflection, watching for how God might use it to guide, encourage, or stretch you over time. Sometimes God’s presence can be easy to miss in the busy swirl of daily life; a Star Word gives us a lens to notice and, later, to look back and recognize where God has been at work throughout the year.

## How to use your Star Word:

- Place it somewhere you'll see it often.
- Pray with it—wondering what God might be inviting you to notice or become.
- Explore it in Scripture or reflection, look up the definition of the word.
- Share your word with a friend if you'd like and discuss it.
- Let it resonate: If you're initially confused or disappointed by your word, let it resonate in your heart for a while. By receiving a star word chosen at random, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not we who are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

If you are not at the services, you can google "epiphany star word generator" and there are several places online that

will generate a random star word for you. Those who regularly watch our livestream were also mailed a star word along with their Advent in a Bag kit.

~ Sue Van Oss



## Epiphany Chalking of the Door

Another Epiphany tradition is a way of blessing all who enter, exit, and dwell in your home or church. You simply write the number of the new year and the letters C, M, and B in chalk on your door or doorframe. The letters stand for the three traditional names of the Magi in Matthew 2: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters can also be a Latin acronym for “May Christ bless this dwelling.” As you do it, a member of the household can say: Peace be to this home, and to all who enter here. All: Amen.

Prayer options:

- May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.
- Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Chalking the door: 20 + C + M + B + 26 The three Wise Men, Caspar [C], Melchior [M], and Balthasar [B], followed the star to Bethlehem and the child Jesus 2000 [20] and 26 [26] years ago. [+ +] May Christ bless our home [+ +] and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.



~ Submitted by Sue Van Oss

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## Flower Guild

Now that we have made it through another year, it's time to start the New Year off with a bang. Please consider doing something you may have an interest in but haven't tackled. The Flower Guild would be a good place to start, if you enjoy working with flowers. No previous experience is necessary. We will help you in any way we can.

Although we do not do arrangements in the summer months, we do them from November to May. Usually once in about six weeks. Do let us welcome you into this ministry and give me a call.

~ Lee Williams

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## Altar Guild Ministry

We are looking for more volunteers to help prepare the altar for the Eucharist that is celebrated at each service. No previous experience is necessary!! This is an open invitation for men and women. Please contact Fr. Bill or Susan Gonzalez in the Church Office if you are interested or would like more information.



## 2025 Annual Ministry Reports for Annual Meeting

If you are a Chair, Facilitator or Scheduler of a Ministry/Committee at St. Michael's, we need a 2025 report from the ministry you chair! The Annual Meeting of the Parish is **February 22<sup>nd</sup>** and your report is needed **by Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**, or sooner, so I can compile the reports. If you would like to see the report from last year for your ministry, or not sure if you need to submit one, please call or [email](mailto:susan.gonzalez@st-michaels.org) Susan G. at the office and she'll assist you.

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## Ministry of Lector Reading & Prayers of the People

### Want to Participate in Worship Services?

#### Do you Love to Read?

#### We've Got a Spot for You!

Have you ever listened to someone read Scripture during worship and thought, "*I could do that*" — or maybe "*I'd love to try*"? Here's your chance!

We're looking for new folks to join our team of **Lectors and Prayer of the People Readers** — at one of our weekend services.

You don't need any special experience — just a willingness to share your voice and your faith. We'll walk you through everything you need to know, and you can sign up for whichever service time fits your schedule best.

It's a simple way to get more involved and be part of something meaningful. When you read Scripture or prayers aloud, you help everyone in the congregation connect more deeply with God's word.

If you are interested, please contact **Susie Wilson**

# From Your Parish Nurse, Wendy

January is and has been National Blood Donor Month for 56 years according to *Google*. This was established in 1970 by a proclamation by President Richard Nixon. Blood supplies during the winter months are often short due to holidays, travel and illnesses. "Whole blood is the most flexible type of donation. It can be transfused in its original form, or used to help multiple people when separated into its specific components of red cells, plasma and platelets", according to the American Red Cross. Whole Blood is used for trauma situations or someone undergoing surgery. Whole Blood can also be broken down into Red Cells, Plasma and Platelets and given to those in need. Depending on the blood component you are donating, the time it takes to donate varies anywhere from one to three hours. The frequency that you can donate also varies depending on what the blood component is.

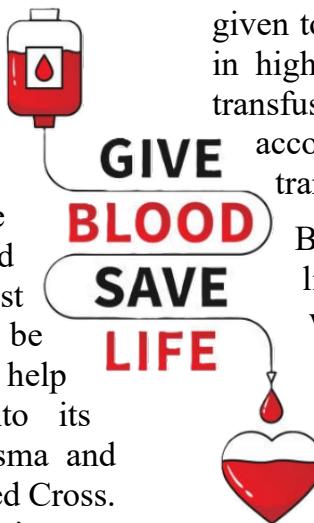
The National Health Service in England reports, "there are eight main blood types, but some are rarer than others. The list below shows the percentage of donors with each blood type:

- O positive: 36%
- O negative: 14%
- A positive: 28%
- A negative: 8%
- B positive: 8%
- B negative: 3%
- AB positive: 2%
- AB negative: 1

The Rh Factor (Rhesus factor) is the positive or negative presence of the protein on the red blood cell and is most critical to know when a woman is pregnant. " The universal red cell donor has Type O negative blood, and the universal plasma donor has Type AB blood." per the Red Cross.

According to the World Health Organization in May of this year, "Of the 118.5 million blood donations collected globally, 40% of these are collected, in high-income countries, home to

16% of the world's population. In low-income countries, up to 54 % of blood transfusions are given to children under 5 years of age; whereas in high-income countries, the most frequently transfused patient group is over 60 years of age, accounting for up to 76% of all transfusions."



Bottomline is that safe blood can save lives. Remember that each donation of whole blood can save up to three lives. If you can't donate, encourage those around you who might be able to donate. Two basic eligibility requirements are you need to be 17 years old and 110 pounds. Contact donation centers and they will tell you what other requirements are considered.

One donor was quoted as saying *"It's not just about giving blood; it's about giving hope. Be a source of light for someone in need."*



Please if you have any questions, feel free to email me at [nurse@saintmichaels-sanibel.org](mailto:nurse@saintmichaels-sanibel.org) or leave me a message in the office.



The next CPR/AED training class is scheduled for Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. This class will be a limited to 6 students.

If you are interested please contact Parish Nurse Wendy Warner in the Church Office or by email at [nurse@saintmichaels-sanibel.org](mailto:nurse@saintmichaels-sanibel.org)

# Communications Corner

Many of the moments that shape our life together at St. Michael & All Angels happen in person in our building—but not everyone can be there. The good news is that you can still stay connected.

## Watch Anytime on Our Website, our YouTube Channel and our Vimeo channel (where we live stream too)

Did you miss a Sunday service while traveling? Want to revisit a meaningful sermon, musical offering, or a presentation? Many of our worship services, presentations, and special events are often recorded and posted on our church website, *YouTube* and *Vimeo* channels so you can watch at your convenience—any time, from anywhere.

These recordings can be especially helpful if you:

- are away from Sanibel for part of the year
- are caring for a loved one or can't attend in person
- want to share a particular service or presentation with family and friends
- would like to reflect again on a message that spoke to you.

## A Simple Way to Stay Connected

Think of our online recordings as another pathway into worship, learning, and community life—one more way to remain rooted in prayer and belonging, even when you can't be physically present.

- Our *YouTube* Channel has 31 different playlists that have everything from weekly sermons, history, special events and presentations and musical offerings.  
[www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels-sanibel](http://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels-sanibel)
- Visit our website [www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org) for many curated videos like:
  - ECW presentations - [www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/ecw](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/ecw)
  - Men's Fellowship presentations - [www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/mens-fellowship](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/mens-fellowship)

- Community Partnership presentations - [www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/community-partnerships](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/community-partnerships)
- Spiritual Pathways - each of the six sections has an introductory video [www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/spiritual-pathways](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/spiritual-pathways)
- Past Services - <https://vimeo.com/smaasanibel>

Whether you're catching up mid-week, rewatching a favorite presentation, or sharing a special event with someone who's never been to St. Michael's, we're glad these recordings can help you stay connected to the heart of our parish.

~ Sue Van Oss

*Director of Communications and Christian Formation*

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## Photos for the Directory



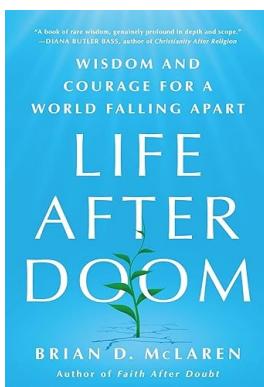
We will have opportunities on the weekends of **January 10-11** and **January 17-18** after all the services on Saturday and Sunday to have your photo taken for our directory. We have several new households that we would love to include so we can get to know each other, and also if you missed the last opportunity to have your photo taken or would like your photo to be retaken, now is the chance! We would love to get the pictures of as many people as possible in our directory. Just stop in the parish hall after any of the services for those two weekends.

~ Thank you, Sue Van Oss

# Interfaith Book Study Begins in January

*LIFE AFTER DOOM - Wisdom and Courage  
for a World Falling Apart*  
By Brian D. McLaren

Exploring faith, ethics and the future together



unwanted feeling" that "we humans have made a mess of our civilization and our planet." Blending the insight of philosophers, poets, scientist and theologians the book explores the need for hope and new ways of thinking, becoming and belonging in these turbulent times." Brian, this year's Interfaith Shared Scholar, wrote the book in a format that he hoped would be used for interfaith book study discussion groups such as ours.

The study group will meet for **four consecutive Wednesdays, January 21 through February 11, from 10:00–11:30 a.m.** at St. Michael's in the Church Library. Participants from all faith traditions are warmly invited. Because discussion is central to this experience, **class size will be limited**, and advance registration is required. **Group limit has been reached and registration is now closed.**

We're delighted that the group will be facilitated by **Walter Schuman**, who taught Religious Studies at Ashland University for 32 years, and his wife **Betsy**. Together, they have been part of St. Michael's book-study community for more than two decades, and they bring wisdom, hospitality, and lively conversation to every gathering.

To ask questions, or request more information, please contact **Walter & Betsy Schuman** at [betsyschuman39@gmail.com](mailto:betsyschuman39@gmail.com).

This study is offered as part of **Spiritual Pathways at St. Michael's**, and we hope you'll join us for this thoughtful journey of faith, ethics, and hope for the future—together.

Brian McLaren will be giving a presentation on Sunday, February 15, 2026, see details below.

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Interfaith Shared Scholar Program ~ Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

We are thrilled to announce that world renown author and speaker **Brian D. McLaren** will be the speaker at the Interfaith Shared Scholar Program Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at United Congregational Church of Christ. He will be speaking on "How to be a Person of Faith in Today's World." In addition, he will be offering a presentation at St. Michael's on Monday, February 16, 2026, time TBD but it will be mid-morning or early afternoon.

A short bio from his website: "Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" – just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. He is a faculty member with the [Center for Action and Contemplation](#) and a podcaster with the CAC's podcast [Learning How to See](#). He is a co-host of [Southern Lights](#) and supports a new progressive ecumenical campus ministry network called [ZOE](#)... He is a popular conference speaker and a frequent guest lecturer for denominational and ecumenical leadership gatherings – across the US and Canada, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. His public speaking covers a broad range



of topics including postmodern thought and culture, Biblical studies, church leadership and spiritual formation, pastoral survival and burnout, inter-religious dialogue, the integration of contemplative spirituality and activism, and global crises." You can read more about him, read his blog posts and his many books at his website, <https://brianmclaren.net/>

Brian is on sabbatical for 2026 but made an exception to come to Sanibel due to the fact he now lives in nearby Naples and we are very grateful to have this opportunity to host him. Be sure to hold these two days to experience this unique opportunity to hear from such a world renown figure.

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## Monday Creation Care Talk by Brian McLaren

St. Michael's is honored to welcome **Rev. Brian D. McLaren—noted author and speaker**—for a timely presentation and conversation:

**Leading Sanibel Forward &  
Caring for Creation**  
**Monday, February 16, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.**  
**Saint Michael's Church**  
**2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel**

As people of faith, we are called to care for creation – and many in our world today, especially youth, are carrying a deep sense of eco-anxiety as climate concerns grow more urgent. What might it look like for us, as island congregations and as individuals, to love our islands well in a time of climate crisis?

Rev. McLaren will guide a thoughtful conversation on **local and global climate concerns**, with the hope that this "critical conversation" will lead to **meaningful and hopeful action**.

This presentation is **hosted by St. Michael's as part of the Interfaith Shared Scholar Program**, and all are welcome. Learn more at [saintmichaels-sanibel.org](http://saintmichaels-sanibel.org).

## A New Year of Reaching Out Epiphany Drive and So Much More

This past year was amazing with so much giving from you as a loving and caring congregation, both financially and as volunteers on site. We'll sum it all up for you in the Annual Meeting Report. Unfortunately, need doesn't slow down, and your Outreach Ministry is leaping into the New Year with plans to help who we can, near and far.

### Epiphany Drive

In December we decided once again to sponsor an Epiphany Drive to help a local non-profit and selected **All Souls Episcopal Church Outreach** as the recipient. All Souls serves many who unfortunately struggle with lack of good shelter, as well adequate food and personal care items. This year, Epiphany is from January 6<sup>th</sup> to February 17<sup>th</sup>, and the "Red Tubs" will be by the front and rear entrances for your contribution of personal care and other items. Although much of the list is personal care, also needed are blankets, sweaters, jackets, and socks, as well as any non-perishable food items.

Shampoo & Conditioner (Regular size)  
Body Lotion • Bar Soap • Deodorant  
Shave Gel • Disposable Razors  
Toothpaste • Toothbrushes  
Hairbrushes and/or Combs  
Hand Towels • Antibacterial Hand Soap  
Nail Clippers • Socks

Blessings to each of you in this New Year as you work to create a better world through generous giving and reaching out to personally touch the lives of so many in need. You are much appreciated and always welcome to join our committee, and our many volunteer efforts throughout the year.

Grab an Epiphany Drive flyer from the table in the Gallery or back of church to take with you on your next shopping trip.

~ Your Outreach Ministry Team



## **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**

We continue to meet in person and on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

**First meeting of 2026 will be on January 13.** Chuck Kettelman will be entertaining us and discussing his hobby as an "illusionist." Hopefully you will be able to "appear" at this meeting, either in person or via Zoom.

**On January 27, we will revisit the subject of Artificial Intelligence (AI).** Sandy Trevor introduced us to AI some time ago, but AI has become a much larger part of our daily lives since then. Whether we know it or not. Sandy will talk with us again about how each of us are or could be using AI, and we can share our own experiences (and frustrations) in our own use of AI.

**Also - reminder that the Men's Retreat** will take place at DaySpring Retreat Center on **February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**. Our focus will be **"The Lord's Prayer."** We say the words so often - but do we really remember what we are saying?"



All men of St. Michael's are welcome to attend. For more information contact **Bill Larson** or Susan G. in the Church Office.

**Men's Fellowship ~ Meeting ID #820 0070 2322**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82000702322>



## **Women of St. Michael's**

**Meet at New Time: 12:15 p.m.**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>**

The "Episcopal Church Women" (ECW) of Saint Michael's, which invites and welcomes all women at Saint Michael's regardless of faith or denomination to participate, will meet on January 12 at 12:15 – 12:30 for discussion and adoption of the 2026 budget.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about our financial strategies and participate (all women may vote) in planning how we allocate our earnings over this coming year. You will learn how we fund generous grants to community charities with earnings from sales at Noah's Ark. Speaking of which, be sure to check out the article elsewhere in this Red Door about the announcement of the 2025 grants.

After the business meeting, we will enjoy a wonderful lunch. That will be followed (from 1:00 pm – 2:00 p.m.) by a program about *The Rescue of Wildlife* at CROW. (See page 5 for more details about CROW).

At St. Michael's, the ECW delights in providing hospitality, educational programs, and other events for church and community. We volunteer our time, have fun, and collectively donate substantial contributions to the community for good works-- as women of St. Michael's have done for decades. Proceeds from Noah's Ark provide a key source of funding for good works.

We are thrilled to have been part of a successful come-back year at Noah's Ark, made possible by the many women and men who volunteered and those who donated goods to sell. We invite you to come to the January meeting to plan for our next successful year.

*~ Barbara Manard, ECW President.*

# St. Michael's Grants Committee Announces 16 Local Charities Awarded Grants

## (Proceeds from Noah's Ark Earnings in 2025)

St. Michael and All Angels (SMAA) Grants are funded by proceeds from Noah's Ark Thrift Shop. Money is allocated to organizations identified through applications submitted to the St Michael and All Angels Grants Committee. Grants are made to the type of not-for-profit organizations known as 501-c3 organizations.

The Grants Committee's mission is to allocate Noah's Ark proceeds to reflect God's inclusive love for all people—focusing on the hungry, unhoused, and marginalized. The St. Michael and All Angels Grants Committee is part of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St. Michael and All Angels.

After a 3-year hiatus, caused by three hurricanes which shuttered Noah's Ark, we are delighted once more to be able to fund substantial grants to local charities.

Grants for 2025 total \$205,000. They have recently been awarded to 16 local charitable organizations. Grants ranged from \$7,000 to \$20,000. The grantees are listed below.

### **The 2025 SMAA Grant Recipients**

**All Souls Episcopal Church Outreach.** Provides food and clothing for indigent and/or homeless persons and low-income seniors.

**ACT (Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc).** Supports victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

**Children's Advocacy Center.** Provides children of abuse and neglect with comprehensive support.

**Community Cooperative** (formerly CCMI Soup Kitchen). Delivers innovative food, education and social service programs in SW Florida.

**ECHO.** Works to improve lives through sustainable food and agroecosystem strategies.

**Gladiolus Food Pantry.** Works to reduce hunger by providing nutritious food while treating clients with dignity and respect.

**Habitat for Humanity.** Brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

**Immokalee Fair Housing.** Works to eliminate substandard housing and overcrowded rental housing for farmworker families and other low-income residents of Immokalee, FL.

**Literacy Council.** Works to empower individuals to acquire English literacy skills and education to enhance their quality of life.

**LIFE (Lee Interfaith for Empowerment).** Addresses issues in Lee County regarding policy and funding changes to bring about solutions to community issues.

**Lighthouse of SW Florida.** Empowers people living with visual impairment or blindness to remain independent and active in society.

**Misión Peniel.** Responds to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of farmworkers and their families in Immokalee, FL. by offering food, support and hope in an often overlooked community

**PACE for Girls.** Provides girls and young women the opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy.

**Partners for Breast Cancer.** Saves lives and reduces suffering from breast cancer through improved early detection, education and access to health care.

**Pine Manor Improvement Association.** Promotes programs that address nutritional needs, job training, family connection and promote safety.

**South Ft. Meyers Food Pantry.** Works to feed the hungry of the south Fort Myers area including Sanibel and Captiva.

~ Nancy Marshall,  
St. Michael and All Angels Grants Committee  
Chair

## Parish Retreat: The Pathways of the Parables (January 22–25, 2026)

Parables are some of Jesus' most beloved teachings—not because they hand us tidy answers, but because they invite us into a deeper journey. This January, our parish retreat, **The Pathways of the Parables**, will offer us time and space to slow down and let these holy stories become **roads we walk**, not just lessons we hear. As one writer puts it, "*Parables are not illustrations that explain ideas; they are stories that invite us to travel.*" (adapted from Eugene Peterson)

Over the course of the weekend, we'll explore parables of **journeys, detours, waiting, and return**, reflecting on how God meets us along the way—often in unexpected places. Together we'll **listen, pray, and share**, discerning where we are on our own path of faith and how Christ continues to guide, interrupt, and invite us forward.

We're especially grateful that the retreat will be led by **Bishop Brian Prior**, returning to visit with us again. Bishop Brian is the former Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota and a **professional certified coach** with more than **25 years of experience** helping people prioritize purpose, passion, and potential.

### Retreat schedule

- **Thursday, Jan. 22 | 4:00 p.m.** –  
Pre-Retreat Reflection (Shell Point room  
TBD)
- **Friday, Jan. 23 | 5:30 p.m.** –  
Opening Session & Dinner
- **Saturday, Jan. 24 | 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** –  
Sessions & Lunch
- **Sunday, Jan. 25 | 11:30 a.m.** –  
Closing Session & Light Lunch

Whether you can participate in the whole retreat or join for a portion, this is a wonderful opportunity to step away from the rush of daily life and reconnect—with God, with one another, and with the direction Christ is shaping in you.

**Put the dates in your calendar, invite a friend, and please RSVP if you are attending the Friday or Saturday sessions so we can plan for the meals provided.**

[www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/parish-retreat-january-2026](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/parish-retreat-january-2026)

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## Men's Retreat February 24<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup>

Men of St. Michael's are invited to a Men's Retreat on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at DaySpring Conference Center, in Parrish, led by **The Rev. Bill Livingston** on the meaning of the Lord's Prayer. This is a chance to step away from the pace of daily life and spend time with God and with one another in a setting shaped by fellowship, reflection, and encouragement. Whether you've attended retreats before or are thinking about trying one for the first time, you are warmly welcome.

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## Women's Retreat Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

Our Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 21 led by **Rev. Coleen Tully** and **Sue Van Oss** offers a meaningful day of spiritual enrichment and community. It's a beautiful opportunity to gather with other women for prayer, sharing, and grow and leave refreshed and grounded in hope.

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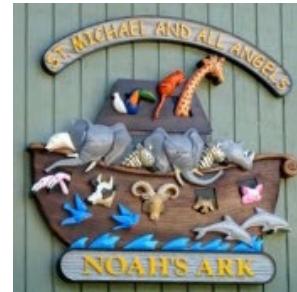
## Noah's Ark is Open!

Tuesdays & Fridays &  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the  
month

10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Donations accepted.

Questions?  
Call 239-799-7146



## Sanibel Luminary Stroll

It was a wonderful evening lit up by the many lights and shining, smiling faces of the hundreds of people who strolled past St. Michael's. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen and special thanks to **FP Property Restoration** for donating one of their crews for the entire day and night to set-up, staff and take-down and providing the tents and coolers of beverages.



## Christmas Caroling at Kings Crown @ SP



# May He Rest in Peace

## George Donald "Don" Adams

December 5, 2025

†

## Memorial Service for Lee Almas

January 31, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m.

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## Memorial Service for Bill Colehower

February 7, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.

## Prayer List

Please Remember in Your Prayers

### Parishioners:

Carol Heath	John Mason
Sally Johnston	Joan Desilet
Pat Jones	Gillian Bath
Shirla Cuscaden	Mary McManus
Susan Lord	Sherry Kanzius
Kristen Beltz	Nancy Maupin
Martha Ponader	Margery Almas

### Family of Parishioners:

JB Ryan	Bud Van Oss
Kathy Treutelaar	Dylan Bartlow
Vreni Greenlee	Lauren Huff Dest
Casey Krusinski	Brian Couser
Rowe Jones	Susan Hodder
Celeste Fraser	Even Parker
Tim Chapman	Toni & Todd Palmer
Lily & David Diaz	

### Friends of Parishioners:

Piff Piffarerio	Fran Daley
Kara K.	Marilyn Sandler
Judy Risch	Brian Troast
Matt Kustetz	Diana Horton
Bobbi Brown	Erik Sauro
Sandra Elliot	Luz & Jose

# January

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### Birthdays

3 <sup>rd</sup>	David Campbell	20 <sup>th</sup>	Martha Eustis
	Margi Shilay		Susie Scutakes
	Sue Van Oss		Lee Wilson
4 <sup>th</sup>	Doug Viets	21 <sup>st</sup>	Sheelagh Clarke
6 <sup>th</sup>	Charlie Emerson		Marykay Haas
	Barbara Stewart		Byron Yake
	Pat Wald	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tina Colehower
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Campbell		Ann Stephens
	Penny Chrysler	24 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Buhner
	Judy Dirks		Liz Coffey
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mollie Avery		Dick King
	Brenda Demaree	25 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Jones
12 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Foote	26 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Lorenger
13 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Duncan		Taylor Peach
14 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Rice	28 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Crawley
15 <sup>th</sup>	Marneka Bradley		Bruce Duncan
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ray Banghart		Victor Enns
	Mary Nelson		Robyn Koerselman
18 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Paul	29 <sup>th</sup>	Corky Boyd
19 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Hemmelgarn	31 <sup>st</sup>	Joe Ruth
	John Wilbur		

### January Anniversaries

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sally & Andy McGowan
6 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Maupin & Carl Meier
8 <sup>th</sup>	Judy & Wes Dirks
16 <sup>th</sup>	Jacquelyn & Tom Wash
20 <sup>th</sup>	Ann & John Stephens
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan Smith & Paul Corliss
26 <sup>th</sup>	Linda & Ralph Korn
29 <sup>th</sup>	Linda & Nick Linsmayer
30 <sup>th</sup>	Augusta Crane & Eldon Bohrofen
	Pat & Don Van Alstyne

## A Collect for Martin Luther King Day (January 19<sup>th</sup>)

*Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may strive to secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

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### Please Help Us Update Birthdays and Anniversaries?

With so many new faces among us, we want to make sure we have your birthday(s) and anniversary (*if applicable*).

We try to pray for each person individually on these special days and will put your name in the worship service bulletin at the appropriate time. It will also appear in the Red Door Newsletter as you see here! Please fill out the form below and send it in to the church or drop it in the offering plate, with your name and full birth date, (*for office use only, birth years are not published*). Thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Below are the bios of the three people standing for election to the three vacancies on the Vestry. Thank you for taking the time to review these in preparation for the Annual Meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> (following the 10:30 service.)

~ Nominating Committee

### ***Paula MacIlwaine***

I graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts, and in 1962, I made the move to Dayton, Ohio. That decision shaped a lot of my life's path. Along the way, I took on the role of Montgomery County Commissioner and was President and CEO Earthwell International, a company focused on energy-efficient lighting.

Giving back to the community has always been important to me, and I've worn a lot of hats over the years: Director at National City Bank, Board Member at Miami Valley Hospital, Director at the Dayton Foundation, Trustee for Sinclair Community College, and President of the League of Women Voters. Each of these roles taught me something new and gave me the chance to work with so many different people.

Now, I stay busy with community activities. I was President of Shell Point Ladies Golf and am on the board at St. Michael & All Angels ECW. I'm also President of the Shell Point Orchid Society, and I volunteer as a cashier and sorter at Noah's Ark Thrift Shop, which is always a fun way to spend my time.

Family means the world to me. I was married to John MacIlwaine, who has since passed away, and together we raised three children. I'm also lucky to have nine energetic and wonderful grandchildren who keep me smiling.

When I get some downtime, you'll probably find me playing golf, euchre, or bridge, or curled up with a good book.

## **Joanne Syversen**

I grew up in the Philadelphia area in a large family, where our parents taught us the value of service to others. At Marquette University I earned a degree in Speech and Language Pathology, then worked in Pennsylvania and Rochester, NY as a Speech and Language Pathologist. I completed my M.S. and further received an advanced degree in Education Administration. My years of administrative assignments were Assistant Principal and Principal in special education elementary and middle schools, with a staff of over 100 teachers, aides, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and support staff. The absolute best part of all those years was talking and interacting with the kids! I retired in 2005 after 33 years of service.

Bob and I moved to Cape Coral in the summer of 2005. We found St. Michael's and were immediately drawn to its welcoming, worshipful and service-oriented community. Having been Eucharistic Ministers in our northern church, we felt called to do that here as well. Serving on the altar is an honor we still thoroughly enjoy. I have also served with the Pastoral Care ministry, as chair for many years, almost since we joined St. Michael's. After Ian, I worked with a team to restore St. Michael's buildings and recommend and procure replacements for furnishings and items that were damaged or destroyed.

At St. Michael's I previously served on our Vestry, which was a fabulous experience, broadening my understanding of what it takes to run a church community. I chaired the Self-Study and Profile Committee in our Search for a new Rector and worked on a few other committees in the ensuing years. We now live in Cypress Cove and enjoy that very much. The shorter commute to St. Michael's is welcome, too.

My earlier Vestry term was a very enriching and rewarding experience. I would welcome another opportunity to serve with Bill and the Vestry. It would be my honor, if selected, to use my previous experience to serve St. Michael and All Angels.

## **Walter "Sandy" Winans**

Sandy grew up in Bedford, New York, and graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1973. He married Sandra Waugh of Southport, Connecticut, in 1978, and they soon moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where they spent ten years before eventually settling in Vienna, Virginia. Sandy and Sandra lived and worked in Northern Virginia for the next 35 years, where they raised two sons.

Sandy spent most of his professional career in high-tech sales, concluding with 11 years at Siemens AG, where he led water and energy conservation programs for the U.S. Government. He holds a master's degree in environmental science from Cornell University and an MBA from Vanderbilt University.

In late 2021, Sandy and Sandra moved full-time to Sanibel and became members of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. Sandy previously served on the vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean, Virginia, and spent 20 years on the board of the Salvation Army in Fairfax, Virginia. Following Hurricane Ian, Sandy focused on rebuilding their home, while Sandra devoted her time and energy to Noah's Ark Thrift Shop.

Today, Sandy and Sandra enjoy visits with their two sons and six lively grandchildren, who live in Easton, Connecticut, and Haworth, New Jersey.

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### **A Prayer in the Evening**

John Philip Newell

*In the great lights of the night sky,  
And its unbounded stretches of space,  
I glimpse the shining of your presence, O God.  
In the universe of my soul and its boundless  
depths  
I look for emanations of your light.  
In the silence of sleep and the dreams of the night,  
I watch for jewels of infinity.  
In the silence of sleep and the dreams of the night,  
I watch for the shining of your presence.*

Coming Up			
Service of Holy Eucharist & Social Hour	Every Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Service of Holy Eucharist & Coffee Hour	Every Sunday	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Church Staff Meeting	Every Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Thomas Madden Room
F.I.S.H. – Mental Health Services Day	Every Wednesday	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Library
“Love First” After School Program	Every Wednesday	2:15-5:00 p.m.	Parishi Hall
Santiva Islanders – Bridge	Every Thursday	1:00-3:30 p.m.	Library
Bible Study w/ the Rector	Every Thursday	10:00 a.m.	ZOOM
Yoga Class	Every Thurs. & Sat.	9:00 a.m.	Parish Hall
Evening Prayer (Compline)	Every Thursday	6:00 p.m.	ZOOM
Choir Rehearsal	Every Friday	12:00 p.m.	Music Room
AA Meeting	Every Friday	7:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
Church Office Closed – New Year’s Eve (December 31) and New Year’s Day (January 1)			
Grief Support Group	Fri. January 2 / 9	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Room
Volunteer Day at Everyday Café	Mon. January 5	9:00 a.m.	CCM Soup Kitchen
ZONTA	Wed. January 7	8:00 a.m.	Parish Hall
Outreach Ministry (hybrid)	Thurs. January 8	1:00 p.m.	T. Madden Rm / ZOOM
Volunteer Day at Mision Peniel	Fri. January 9		Immokalee, FL
Island Woods HOA Meeting	Sat. January 10	9:00 a.m.	Parish Hall
Sanibel Time Capsule Comm. Event	Sat. January 10	11:00 a.m.	Sanibel City Hall
Messy Church	Sun. January 11	4:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
“Gather Round the Table”	Sun. January 11 / 18	12:00 p.m.	Library
ECW Board Meeting	Mon. January 12	11:00 a.m.	T. Madden Rm
ECW Lunch & Program	Mon. January 12	12:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
SG: Later Life Reflection Group	Mon. January 12	3:00 p.m.	The Cove in Estuary @ SP
Men’s Fellowship (hybrid)	Tues. January 13 / 27	8:30 a.m.	Library / ZOOM
Neighborhood Gathering	Tues. January 13	5:00 p.m.	Ann & John Stephens
Pastoral Care Ministry (hybrid)	Wed. January 14	10:00 a.m.	ZOOM
Vestry Meeting (hybrid)	Thurs. January 15	1:00 p.m.	T. Madden Room
Neighborhood Gathering	Thurs. January 15	5:00 p.m.	Jenny Hauber
Grief Support Group	Fri. January 16 / 23	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Room
Church Office Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 19			
Christian Formation Ministry	Thurs. January 19	11:15 a.m.	ZOOM
Neighborhood Gathering	Tues. January 20	5:00 p.m.	Carolyn & Ralph Clark
ZONTA	Wed. January 21	8:00 a.m.	Parish Hall
Spiritual Pathways Meeting	Wed. January 21	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Room
Neighborhood Gathering	Thurs. January 22	5:00 p.m.	Susie Wilson
Parish Retreat	Thurs.-Sun. January 22-25	See page 14 for Retreat Schedule	
“Gather Round the Table”	Sun. January 25	12:00 p.m.	Library
CPR/AED Training – Please RSVP	Mon. January 26	9:00 a.m.	Parish Hall
Neighborhood Gathering	Tues. January 27	5:00 p.m.	Lena & Steve Brown
CFI Leadership Workshop	Wed. January 28	8:00 a.m.	Parish Hall
Neighborhood Gathering	Thurs. January 29	5:00 p.m.	Wendy McGaha
Grief Support Group	Fri. January 30	10:00 a.m.	Meditation Room
Memorial Service for Lee Almas	Sat. January 31	11:00 a.m.	St. Michael's

# Yoga: Spirit in Motion



Take a break from the stress and hustle of daily life and join us for a rejuvenating yoga class. JoEllen adapts for all abilities and skill levels; beginners welcome!

**Thursdays @ 9am**

**Saturdays @ 9am**

**St. Michael's Parish Hall-2304 Periwinkle**

Certified Yoga Instructor  
JoEllen Simons



Bring a mat, (if you don't have one, we will have extras) water bottle, and comfortable clothing.  
No class fee, but there is a donation basket available for the instructor.

A part of Spiritual Pathways  
@ St. Michael's



For more info:

[pathways@saintmichaels-sanibel.org](mailto:pathways@saintmichaels-sanibel.org)

## Worship & Fellowship

- **Saturday at 5:00 p.m.** – Holy Eucharist, followed by Social Hour.
- **Sunday at 8:00 a.m.** – Holy Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour
- **\*Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** – Holy Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour

Livestreamed at [www.vimeo.com/smaasanibel](http://www.vimeo.com/smaasanibel)  
(\*With Sunday Shuttle pickup at ShellPoint)

Sunday	5:00 p.m.	Messy Church – January 11 <sup>th</sup>
Wednesday	11:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study on ZOOM
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer (Compline) on ZOOM

## ----- Noah's Ark Thrift Shop -----

Tuesdays, Fridays and 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
239-799-7146

**SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
2304 Periwinkle Way • Sanibel, Florida 33957  
[239] 472-2173  
[www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org)

**The Rev. Bill Van Oss, Rector**  
[rector@saintmichaels-sanibel.org](mailto:rector@saintmichaels-sanibel.org)