

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Blacksburg, Virginia



2014 Annual Report

Respectfully submitted
by the
Church Council and the Ministry Leaders
to the Congregation

Table of Contents

Our Mission Statement	1
Pastor's Report	2
Those Called to Special Service	3
Ministry Team Reports	
Worship Committee	4
Caring and Sharing Team	5
Education Ministries	7
Property Committee	8
Stewards Team.....	9
Memorial Committee	11
Memorial Fund.....	12
Women of the ELCA	13
Men in Mission	15
Older Kids Senior Ministry.....	16
Youth Ministry	17
Micah's Backpack.....	18
Micah's Garden.....	19
Micah's Soup for Seniors	19
Micah's Closet	20
Financial Reports	
2014 Investments in Ministry	21
2015 Investments in Ministry Plan	22
Notes on the 2015 Investments in Ministry Plan.....	26
Appendix	
Church Directory	27

Our Mission Statement

As a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. Michael Lutheran Church is to:

C

Care for God's people in need,

H

Hear of God's love through Word and Sacrament,

R

Respond to God's grace with thankful hearts,

I

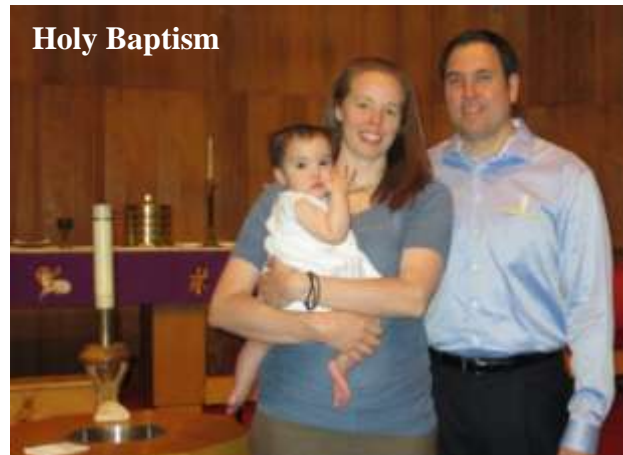
Invite others into Christ's community,

S

Serve God in our daily lives, and

T

Tell the story of God's love for all.





St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 951-8951
hope@stmhc.us
Rev. John Wertz, Jr., Pastor

February 15, 2015

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for a wonderful year of ministry at St. Michael. Thank you for sharing your time and your resources to witness to God's love and to provide opportunities for worship and learning. Thank you for being God's heart and hands and voices in our community. Together we are making Christ known in powerful, meaningful ways.

In 2014, the people of God at St. Michael

- worked with 200 partners and 500 volunteers to provide meals to over 280 hungry students in our community through Micah's Backpack.
- provided bags of food to 90 senior adults per month through Micah's Soup for Seniors.
- shared over 1600 pounds of fruits and vegetables to three food pantries through Micah's Garden.
- expanded Micah's Mobile Backpack into new areas of Blacksburg.
- provided 87 students with new clothing through Micah's Closet.
- served a delicious Thanksgiving Day meal to approximately 170 people.
- helped 220 families with rent, power bills and other emergency needs.
- celebrated the hope of Easter with 294 people and the joy of Christmas with 274 people.
- offered Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, a Women's Bible Study, Tuesday morning and Sunday evening Bible studies to 100 youth and adults.
- joined with other churches and organizations to provide Christmas boxes to children at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.
- provided meeting space to groups such as the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Montgomery County Board of Elections, the Quilting Party and the Price Family Historical Society.
- enjoyed delicious food at three Second Sunday Summer Brunches and the Birthday Dinner.
- gathered for worship each Sunday at 9 AM, 11 AM and 6:30 PM and enjoyed Holden Evening Prayer midweek services for Advent and Lent.
- offered support to individuals and families through the Mother's Morning Out program, Fun with Friends, the Parenting Christian Kids newsletter and Devotionals.
- cooked meals for the To Our House Homeless Shelter and hosted the shelter for a week.
- took youth to Confirmation Camp, the Junior High Servant Event and added part-time youth leaders to work with middle school and high school youth.
- Increased our online faith formation presence through regular posts and through the creation of an online Advent Calendar that was viewed by over 10,000 people.

In 2015, we will be completing a long-range planning process which we began in October and discussing how we equip and staff the ministry of the congregation for the next several years. I look forward to working with each of you to grow the ministry of St. Michael and proclaim God's love to the world.

Peace and hope,

Pastor John

Those Called to Special Service

Congregational Council

Term Ending 2015

Elizabeth Berg
Hank Schneider
Tammy Veit

Term Ending 2016

Jim Clemens
Keith Gay
Matthew James

Term Ending 2017

Sheila McCartan
Ben Simmers
Gary Worley

Officers of the Congregational Council and Congregational Leaders

President.....	Jim Clemens
Vice President / Secretary	Keith Gay
Financial Officer	John Krallman
Financial Secretaries	Jim Clemens and Ben Simmers
Ministry Funds Treasurer.....	John Krallman
Ministry Funds Recording Secretary	Doug Smiley
Memorial Fund Secretary/Treasurer	Cindy Dowdy
Sunday School Secretaries	Jim Clemens and Doug Smiley
Trustees	Jeff Birch, Jim Clemens, Betty Gross, Fran Shepherd, Ben Simmers, Doug Smiley, and Dave Surface

Ministry Team Leaders and Ministry Staff

Worship.....	Pastor John Wertz
Caring and Sharing	Fran Gallimore
Finance.....	John Krallman
Stewards.....	Hank Schneider
Property.....	Fran Shepherd
Memorial.....	Jim Clemens
Women of the ELCA	Alice Schneider
Men in Mission	Jeff Birch
Lay Associate in Ministry	Sandy Birch
Administrative Assistant.....	Suzanne Gay
Choir Director	Patrice Yearwood
Accompanists (9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services)	Timmy Akinola
Accompanist (6:30 AM service).....	Reed Yearwood
Micah's Backpack Director	Jennie Hodge
Micah's Soup for Seniors Director	Dianne Krallman
Micah's Closet Director	Sheila McCartan
Youth Ministry Staff	Lilly Goldsmith and Anna Lehman
Webmaster	Philip Isenhour

Gathered in Worship

At the heart of St. Michael's life together is worship. We gather each Sunday at 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM and then provide for seasonal worship opportunities and celebrations. This year, we introduced the Seasonal Worship Planning Teams which provide an opportunity for people within the congregation to gather and provide suggestions for how we might strengthen our worship life together.

Our life together is supported by the Sunday Servants who:

- **Provide altar care:** Volunteers from the congregation prepared Holy Communion and changed altar area vestments. Their duties included, but were not limited to preparing and cleaning of communion ware after the 11:00 AM service. Pastor John oversees altar care for the 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM services.
- **Assist with communion, serve as lay readers, greeters, and ushers and acolytes:** Volunteers from the congregation served in these capacities. Sandy Birch and Suzanne Gay coordinate volunteers and provide materials for these activities. We thank Shirley Linkous for coordinating the 9 AM Servants for many years until her retirement this year.
- **Donate flowers:**
 - Weekly flower arrangements were donated by members of the congregation. Opportunities to reserve/donate for a particular week were communicated via a reservation sheet in the hallway. The arrangements are donated to Heritage Hall each week.
 - During the holidays we enjoyed lilies and poinsettias for Easter and Christmas Eve services respectively.

Our life together is strengthened by our Music Ministry: In 2014, St. Michael's music ministry continued to provide wonderful leadership for worship and meaningful special music.

- The 9 AM Hymn Choir includes more individuals who worship at 9 AM in music ministry.
- In September, Timmy Akinola joined our ministry team as organist. We give thanks to Patrice Yearwood and Matthew James for playing while we searched for a new musician.
- Reed Yearwood continues to play guitar for the 6:30 PM Service.
- The Choir shared many wonderful pieces of music and the Handbell Choir performed at Christmas.
- Thank you to everyone who shares their musical gifts at St. Michael.

Our life together is enhanced by special worship services and activities:

- Lenten meals and worship in partnership with Shiloh and New Mt. Zion
- Holy Week worship and activities in partnership with Shiloh and New Mt. Zion
- Easter Services at 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM and 6:30 PM
- Advent meal and worship (alternating between St. Michael and Luther Memorial) and activities
- Christmas Eve Worship Services at 4 PM, 7 PM and 11 PM



Caring and Sharing Team 2014

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Purpose: This team seeks to provide an environment of love and caring within and outside the congregation.

Members: Fran Gallimore (chair), Carol Crawford, Sandy Birch, Deloris Raines, Anna Rossomando, Judith Wolfe, Keith Gay

Thank you! The Caring and Sharing Team offers **special thanks to St. Michael's members and friends** who supported this year's projects with their time, talents, and contributions.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Approximately 170 persons joined together to celebrate the Thanksgiving meal. Special thanks to St. Michael members for preparing delicious side dishes. Volunteers from the area assisted St. Michael's members in serving this meal. Volunteer Coordinator: Fran Gallimore



Price's Fork Fair Outreach Booth: Fran Gallimore, Pastor John, and a variety of church members spent two days at the fair playing games and painting faces for children. This activity provided an opportunity to share the ministry of St. Michael with the community. Handouts included faith-themed coloring books, Bibles, grief resources, family devotionals and general information about the church. Volunteer Coordinator: Fran Gallimore

Salvation Army Angel Tree: 25 "angels" received gift packages of clothing, shoes and toys. Volunteer Coordinators: the Brewer/McCartan Family

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: This traditional activity brought people together for food and fellowship from St. Michael, Shiloh Lutheran Church, New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church and the Price's Fork area. Donations received were distributed to Micah's Closet.



Second Sunday Summer Brunches: High school and college graduates were recognized at the June brunch hosted by WELCA. July and August brunches were coordinated by the Caring and Sharing Team. The July brunch highlighted the Circle of Grace scattering garden and at the August brunch, we celebrated Pastor John's ten year anniversary as pastor of St. Michael.

To Our House: St. Michael participated in this area ministry which provides meals and shelter for up to 12 homeless men per night. St. Michael members provided meals on several dates. A day of meals consists of a simple breakfast, a bag lunch and dinner. For a week in December, St. Michael hosted the men overnight.

Meals for Funerals/Illness: This very important congregational program was coordinated by Deloris Raines.

Softball Team: Men and women representing St. Michael enjoyed a successful season in the spring. Volunteer Coordinators: Jeff Birch and Doug Smiley

Volleyball Team: St. Michael competed in the Blacksburg Recreation League on Thursday evenings in the fall. Volunteer Coordinator: Ron Brewer

Boy Scout Troop: Jan Helge Bohn continued to serve as Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 158.

Adventure Crew: St. Michael BSA Crew 158 serves boys and girls, ages 14 to 20. This BSA program builds character, citizenship and leadership skills in older youth. Adventure Crew Advisor: Sara Bohn

Education Ministries 2014

In the waters of Baptism, we are united to God's family of faith and we are called to be a light shining God's love into the world. In order to live out our baptism in our daily lives, we invest time in learning about God's Word, in growing in our faithfulness and in sharing God's story with our families and our community. In 2014, St. Michael offered a variety of educational opportunities to help families and individuals grow in their relationship with God. From September until May, Sunday School meets each Sunday morning offering classes for kindergarten through adults. We are blessed with leaders, teachers, and assistants who love to work with our students and students who have a desire to hear, study, and share God's Word.

This year's Confirmation Class consists of 14 youth in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Confirmation is a three year program which consists of two overnight lock-ins and two mini-retreats per year to focus on different areas of a life of faith. In addition, students attend a week of Confirmation Camp during the summer after seventh grade. On Reformation Sunday, 4 youth affirmed their baptismal promises and were confirmed: David Christle, Sarah Moehling, Matt Sharpe, and Parker Wertz.

Vacation Bible School was held in June with over 70 youths and adults participating. This year's theme was "Workshop of Wonders". Classes were offered for youth of all ages and the middle school and high school youth led skits for the other groups. Thank you to all the teachers, music leaders, and families who provided the meals. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Jesus.

In December, the youth shared a wonderful Christmas program entitled, "Living Christmas Cards", which was attended by nearly 100 people. The youth and their adult leaders did a wonderful job sharing the story of Christmas.

Pastor John leads a Bible Study each Tuesday morning at 11 AM which focuses on the readings for worship. In addition to the Tuesday morning Bible Study, Pastor John also leads a monthly Sunday evening Bible Study which focuses on understanding our faith more fully.

In addition to the Bible studies led by Pastor John, the Women of the ELCA sponsored a monthly lunch and learn to discuss women in the Bible and the Happy-Go-Lucky Senior group included a presentation and time of learning in each of its luncheons.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)



Faithchest

Given to each individual baptized at St. Michael to provide a place to store the memories of a lifetime of faith.

Property Committee 2014

Purpose: The property committee's main function is to oversee the church property, making improvements and repairs as needed.

Regular activities included

- Overseeing the seasonal clean-ups
- General upkeep and mowing of the grass
- Removing snow
- Spraying monthly for insects
- Spraying for weed control
- On-going maintenance and repair

Facility improvements included

- Installation of blinds in the front hallway and back of the sanctuary
- Installation of blinds in the large classroom
- Repairing and repainting the front doors to the Sanctuary
- Construction of Phase 1 of the Circle of Grace Scattering Garden

Special Thanks

To all those folks who work behind the scenes who are a major part in the upkeep and maintenance of our church including...

- Ray Howell and Ron Brewer for their help in addressing our maintenance issues.
- The "Mowing Crew" that mows and keeps our grounds looking nice.
- Those who weeded the flower beds.
- Marty Gordon who serves as our church custodian and Wanda Pascoe who makes sure that needed cleaning supplies are on-hand.



Circle of Grace

Stewards Team 2014

The Stewards Team is called to promote understanding of congregational stewardship and encourage the sharing of our time, talents and treasures.

Time and talent surveys were completed in March and April, with an excellent member response. Members of St. Michael volunteered to serve on committees and teams, teach in our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, prepare food, maintain the church grounds, sing in our choirs, serve on Sunday morning as ushers, lay readers, acolytes, communion assistants, greeters and altar care providers. During the year, many donated their time and talents to special projects such as representing St. Michael at the Price's Fork Fair, preparing Micah's backpacks with weekend food for school children, packing and delivering food in the Soup for Seniors Program, and hosting the To Our House homeless shelter in December.

- A regular feature in the monthly newsletter, *Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure*, is devoted to recognizing servants who volunteered their time and talents for numerous tasks and activities at the church and thanking the congregation for participating in a variety of projects throughout the year.

Estimates of giving for 2014 were distributed and received during October. Estimates of giving for the Growing with Faith Fund were included as an additional option with the Core Ministry Fund which supports the overall ministry of the congregation. Gifts to the Growing with Faith Fund not only reduces debt, supports renovation projects and funds future ministries, they are vital to the ministry we are doing each week.

Here are some examples of how St. Michael invests God's gifts in the community and in the world.

- Food and paper goods for the Montgomery County Food Bank and Food, cleaning supplies, paper goods, and baby items for the Women's Resource Center - Thank you to Pat Smith for delivering these contributions monthly.
- School supplies for Prices Fork Elementary School
- Christmas gifts for 25 children sponsored by the Salvation Army Angel Tree project
- Over 48 Easter baskets for children at the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army
- 251 Christmas shoebox gifts the children on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota (a joint project with other New River Lutheran churches, Christ the King Lutheran in Richmond and other groups such as the DAR); mailing prepared at "Party with a Purpose" in November; extra supplies, e.g., quilts, socks and gloves sent to Pastor Rupp, who runs a homeless shelter in Pine Ridge
- An average of 12 flower arrangements for Heritage Hall created weekly from altar flowers
- \$3,120 for the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance (MCEAP) program plus an additional \$230 from Souper Bowl Sunday
- Support two children in Indonesia through ChildFund International
- Assistance to 230 families for rent and medical expenses, electric and water bills, heating oil, food and other expenses totaling \$9,211.00 from the Justice and Mercy Fund
- \$21,500 donated to the Virginia Synod to support ministry in the Synod, the country and in the world
- \$1,200 to Bedford Lutheran, our Mission Partner
- Donations of \$445 designated for our Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary partner
- Food and funds for the annual community Thanksgiving dinner
- Meals for To Our House homeless shelter

- Mother and father gifts for the Montgomery County Christmas Store
- \$4,000 to Lutheran Campus Ministries
- Thanks to your generosity and the support of a multitude of partners, Micah's Caring Initiative provides assistance to our neighbors through Micah's Backpack, Micah's Garden, Micah's Soup for Seniors and Micah's Closet.

Stewardship of our earth was emphasized through newsletter articles and postings on the hallway bulletin board. St. Michael continues to take good care of our earth by such actions as recycling eye glasses and used ink cartridges and cell phones, using recycled copy paper, and providing recycling bins in the church for paper and cardboard. Thanks to Judy Wunderlich for recycling our paper and cardboard each week.

The stewardship of our congregation is exceptional and we **Thank All of You.** A catered brunch was held in December to honor all the St. Michael stewards. You are generous supporters of the ministry at St. Michael, in the community, and the world.

Our Time and Talent Sheet was changed in format to a single page back and front style but our favorite line item continues to be:

_____ **I am willing to help in many ways; just ask**

That continues to be so true at St. Michael –Thanks Be to God

Hank Schneider (chair), Sandy Birch, Ben Simmers, Jody Smiley, Pastor John, Andrea Robinson

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.



Memorial Committee 2014

The Memorial Committee meets on an as needed basis to act on Council recommendations or conduct other business related to overseeing the use of all money donated to St. Michael as memorials.

- This past year no designated Memorial Funds were spent.
- Donations in memory of Ross Brown, Tim Clemens, Doris Price, Doug Eads, Kenna Colley's Mom, Ray Wingate, Marguerite Smiley, Bob Whitmer and Esther Birch went into the Memorial Fund.
- Donations in memory of Alice McMahon, Ross Brown, Bill Mitchell, Eric Young's grandfather, Joe Young's mother and father, Tina Cote's father-in-law, Jaime Ravert's father, Bob Taylor, Katelin Agoston, Robert Short, James and Stanley Trimble, Doug Eads, Marguerite Smiley, Bob Whitmer, Esther Birch, Gary Fetter, Jim Young, and Laura Forest went into the Micah's Backpack Fund.
- Donations in memory of Doug Eades, Andy Schena, Marguerite Smiley, Miguel Ramos and Betty Wilson went into the Soup for Seniors Fund.
- Donations in memory of Gary Christle went into the Boy Scout memorial project.
- Donations in memory of Marguerite Smiley went into the Justice and Mercy Fund.
- Donations in memory of Freddie Oliver, Alice McMahon, and Ray Wingate went into the Micah's Closet Fund.
- Donations in memory of Ray Wingate, Esther Birch and Jim Young went into the Circle of Grace fund.
- Donations in memory of Doug Eads went into the Micah's Garden Fund.

The committee maintains a list of suggested memorials to be used by families, and is always available to answer questions or assist in choosing a memorial gift. Members of the committee are: Bob Brown, Cindy Dowdy-Treasurer, Jim Clemens-Chair, Jay Nagle, Donna Oliver, Peggy Price, Anne Surface and Sandy Birch.

The Memorial Fund Treasurer's report on the next page gives a complete breakdown on designated and undesignated money, received and disbursed from the fund.

Jim Clemens
Chair

Memorial Fund 2014

Beginning Balance	\$9285.05
Expenditures	\$0.00
Memorial Gifts	
*In memory of Ross Brown	\$75.00
*In memory of Tim Clemens	\$25.00
*In memory of Doris Price	\$50.00
*In memory of Doug Eads	\$75.00
*In memory of Kenna Colley's Mother	\$25.00
*In memory of Ray Wingate	\$690.00
*In memory of Marguerite Smiley	\$600.00
*In memory of Bob Whitmer	\$25.00
*In memory of Esther Birch	\$50.00
Interest	\$1.88
Ending Balance	\$10,901.93

Note: This account was closed on September 22, 2014 and transferred to a restricted fund in the Core Ministry Account.

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) 2014

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world.

This fall we began a study of "Kindred Sisters", women making connections between the faith of women in the New Testament and contemporary women of all ages. Lunch and Learn meets at the church monthly during the school year. WELCA is led by a team of three: Jody Smiley, Sandy Birch and chaired by Alice Schneider.

Projects and activities for 2014 include the following:

- Sponsored donations for Montgomery Food Bank and Women's Resource Center.
- In February, we enjoyed a dinner buffet at Amelia's.
- 32 Easter baskets were filled with small toys, books and treats. They were delivered to the Women's Resource Center and Salvation Army.
- The Easter brunch was enjoyed after the 7 AM Service.
- Hosted the Second Sunday Summer Brunch in June and celebrated St. Michael graduates of the year.
- Bold Women's Sunday in May - women led all three services and joined together to sing a hymn.
- Thankoffering boxes donated \$375 to provide 3 sheep to African countries to be raised for their wool to make clothing and milk for dairy products.
- Sisters in Christ Luncheon and Tea in May. We shared stories behind some of our "special" tea cups and learned how God can be compared to a potter and we are his clay. This year Jody Smiley and Alice Schneider were honored as Women of ELCA Bold Women.
- Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA was held in Charlotte in July. Sandy Birch, Alice Schneider and Jody Smiley attended. The theme "Of Many Generations" was illustrated and enjoyed in worship, learning, projects and fellowship with 2,400 women of 5 generations present, from all over the USA and the world.



Alice, Jody, and Sandy smile for the camera at the WELCA Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, NC. Jody was elected Vice President of the National Women of the ELCA.

- Annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization Convention (VSWO) held August 15-16 at Muhlenberg Lutheran in Harrisonburg. Alice Schneider, delegate and Jody Smiley, national board member, attended.
- Dresses for Africa - members of St. Michael made 70 girls dresses and 20 pairs of shorts for boys, for the Little Dresses for Africa program. The VSWO challenge to make 1,000 dresses was far surpassed by making 2,400.
- Boxes filled with hundreds of school supplies were donated to Price's Fork Elementary.
- In September, we celebrated St. Michael's anniversary with our annual birthday dinner which featured tasty Italian food catered by the Cellar Restaurant. A different delicious dessert was served at each Birthday month table. A donation of \$ 93 was sent to the Christmas Store.
- On October 26, the women of Shiloh Lutheran hosted the New River Conference annual Fall Gathering. They prepared a lovely sit down tea using many special family tea cups which was accompanied by a big variety of shared finger foods. Pastor Terrie Sternberg of Trinity, Pulaski presented information from Ellen Hinlicky about VA Lutheran Partners in Mission. Our featured speaker, Judy Castele, Executive Director of Project Horizon, told us about their work with at-risk women. We collected packaged foods for Shiloh's food pantry and the offering was split between WELCA and Lutheran Partners in Mission.



- On November 23 adults worked with the youth during Sunday School to organize shoeboxes for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. 251 shoe boxes were checked, decorated, and labeled this year. They were donated by area Lutheran churches, the Daughters of the American Revolution and Christ the King Lutheran Church in Richmond. Ron Brewer delivered them to Dublin for shipping. In addition, we shipped a box of handmade baby blankets, throws, hats, scarves, gloves, art supplies, and toys to Rev. Karen Rupp for the homeless program at Pine Ridge. Donations covered the shipping.

- In December, we contributed 6 filled laundry baskets with gifts for "family fun evenings" for Price's Fork School Elementary school families.

We invite all women to join in WELCA activities such as Lunch and Learn or any other activity. Every woman is - a Woman of the ELCA!!

Submitted by: Alice Schneider, chair



Men in Mission 2014

The Men in Mission group is “on-call” to support the programs of St. Michael and provide community service as needed.

In 2014, the Men in Mission:

- unloaded the Micah’s Backpack pick-up truck one Monday each month;
- directed traffic in the parking lot of the Montgomery County Christmas Store and assisted shoppers with unloading their carts on December 13.

Jeff Birch, Coordinator



Older Kids (O.K.s) Senior Ministry 2014

An active group of “over 50’s” had a number of opportunities for fellowship during the year. The Happy-Go-Lucky group, mostly retirees, met monthly on second Tuesdays for a catered luncheon and program in the fellowship hall. The fall started out with a “gourmet” school lunch served on school lunch trays, followed by a Virginia Tech tailgate in September with Anna’s famous barbeque. December included a 5-course luncheon with a guest appearance by a local harpist, Julia Fallon, who played our Christmas favorites. Many thanks to our caterers Lynn Hickock, Barbara Corbett, Alice Schneider, and Sandy Birch and our set-up/clean-up helper, Anita Shepherd and others. A \$5/lunch contribution for groceries is always appreciated, though not required.



Special guests joined us for lunch on several occasions, e.g., Isabel Birney and Sandy Schlaudecker from the Funeral Consumers Alliance in September. In May, Dr. Rosemary Blieszner, Associate Director of the Center for Gerontology at VT, spoke on the value of friends among seniors, a topic of her research for many years. The program theme for 2014 was “Important Stuff Seniors Should Know About.”

The “Out to Lunch Bunch” met for lunch at a local restaurant on the 4th Tuesday of most months. Restaurants visited in 2014 included the Sakura Steak House, Olive Garden, Huckleberry Café at the Village Center at Warm Hearth, Hunan Restaurant, Ruby Tuesday, El Rodeo, Buffalo and More in Riner, and the Outback Steakhouse. Many thanks to Sandy Sheppard and Peggy Brown for organizing these luncheons.

The O.K.s also went traveling in a cooperative program with the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Department. In 2014, the bus took us to Claytor Lake State Park, Pipestem State Park in West Virginia, WDBJ7/Center in the Square in Roanoke, and Lewisburg, WV. All members of the congregation are invited on the bus trips.



The O.K.s supported a collection of gifts for moms and dads for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Announcements posted on the hallway bulletin board and in the newsletter keep the O.K.s informed of AARP and other senior organizations’ activities throughout the year.

The younger O.K.s, known as the “middle-agers”, meet on occasion for dinner and other activities, e.g., Soup for Seniors packing and distribution. The middle-agers are loosely described as those “between PTA and AARP” and not yet retired.

Youth Ministry 2014

In 2014 the congregation decided to strengthen our youth ministry significantly in response to the growing presence of youth at St Michael in recent years. We affirmed that our high school and junior high school students are an important part of the life of the congregation, and acknowledged that we need more programs to meet their needs at this point in their walk of faith.

One key initial step was selecting and hiring youth ministry staff. In September, we welcomed Lilly Goldsmith and Anna Lehman to St. Michael's ministry team. Lilly and Anna assist with the Youth Sunday School class and Confirmation, plan and lead youth events and projects and accompany youth to Virginia Synod Youth Events.

The congregation also established a Lifelong Faith Formation Task Force. One of their primary functions is to explore opportunities for connecting youth more fully to their faith and to others in the congregation. Sheila McCartan leads the task force. Additionally, Jody Smiley provides teachings the Youth Sunday School class, organizes and leads Vacation Bible School and assists with other youth events like the Hands-On Holy Week and Easter Egg Hunt.

We thank everyone in the congregation who has already provided support through prayer and by other means, and we ask for your continued support throughout 2015 and beyond.





2014 Annual Report



Micah's Backpack a free, community based ministry feeds children from low-income families 6 meals and snacks on the weekends throughout the academic year and summer vacation.

- By December 2014, 278 children and youth participated at 9 partner schools: Blacksburg High School, Blacksburg Middle School, Blacksburg Presbyterian Head Start, Gilbert Linkous Elementary School, Harding Avenue Elementary School, Kipps Elementary School, Margaret Beeks Elementary School, Price's Fork Elementary School, Valley Interfaith Child Care Center.
- Shared 66,192 meals during 2014.
- 12.25% increase in food donated by partners and individuals over 2013. Frequent partners include Blacksburg Christian Church, Blacksburg Jewish Community Center, Blacksburg New School, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, DISH Network. These partners conduct semi-annual or monthly food drives for Micah's Backpack, and along with others, helped share 42,718 items in 2014.
- Engaged up to 120 volunteers (from the young to the young-at-heart) who participate on a weekly basis during 2014 sharing 3,765 hours.
- Grants awarded from the Adobe Community Foundation, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church Endowment, the Community Foundation of the NRV, and Thrivent. A Youth grant was awarded to Olivia Hodge from YSA.org to expand the summertime Micah's Mobile Backpack route.
- Men in Mission participated monthly by unloading the truck and shelving the food from Feeding America and Sam's Club.
- 3 students from VT served as interns during the fall and spring semesters.
- Shared 5,928 meals plus 416.85 lbs. of fresh produce from Micah's Garden, Wall Brothers Farm, and 3 Birds Berry Farm on Micah's Mobile Backpack. Expanded the route to include a loop in Oak Forest.
- Continued to partner with faculty and staff at Price's Fork Elementary School who piloted a summer reading program on Fridays on the mobile backpack.
- Jennie Hodge wrote a chapter for Voices of Hunger called "Micah's Mobile Backpack: an Evolution in Alleviating Weekend Food Insecurity" and accepted a call to serve as Chair of Weekend Feeding Programs for the VA Synod's Hunger Task Force: <http://www.vasynod.org/virginiafeedskids>.
- For more information about Micah's Backpack, please contact Jennie Hodge (jennie@micahsbackpack.org).



St Michael established Micah's Garden, a cooperative community garden, in the spring of 2012.

In 2014:

- Partnered with four food pantries: Giving Tree, Interfaith, Spiritual Roots and Micah's Mobile Backpack to distribute fresh produce.
- Expanded the variety of vegetables and fruits grown and shared and increased our yield by just under 25%. Shared 1,607 lbs. of fruits and vegetables.
- 50 volunteers shared 975 hours helping sow, grow, harvest, and deliver 1,250.09 lbs. of basil, beans, beets, blueberries, cabbage carrots, collard greens, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, okra, peppers, potatoes, spinach, squash, tomatoes, Swiss chard, and zucchini!
- Laura and Seth Perry continued to design plot maps to make planting and harvesting easier.
- Grants awarded from the Community Foundation of the NRV and the NRV Master Gardeners to install a greenhouse as part of a volunteer project. We hope to increase our efficiency and expand our poundage shared.
- Hosted a Potato Party that drew young and young-at-heart to harvest 185 lbs. of potatoes.
- Feedback from Giving Tree volunteer, "We are so very grateful for the summer months, when our pitiful supply of fresh produce is vamped up by local gardens especially Micah's Garden. Each week volunteers show up with that week's harvest. We go from not having enough produce to pulling out extra tables to keep up with all the fruit and vegetable donations. Our patrons take the fresh donations with enthusiasm, grateful for the healthy and tasty additions to their dinner tables."
- For more information about Micah's Backpack, please contact Jennie Hodge (jennie@micahsbackpack.org).

2014 Annual Report



Micah's Soup for Seniors (MSS) had a great 2014. We have continued in this ministry with great support from the church, church members, community volunteers, and Warm Hearth.

Some of our outside partners include Panera, Warm Hearth, Chi Delta Alpha and classroom involvement from the VT Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise.

Some special notes from this year:

The Happy Go Lucky group made us special treats to include in the November food bags. These were well received by the seniors at Warm Hearth.

We did some special Christmas Caroling during the December distribution. We were able to carol to all three houses plus we visited and caroled for Betty and Burn Gross and Hallie Brown afterwards.

The history and outline of Micah's Soup for Seniors (MSS): MSS was started in September 2012 as a way to provide extra food for low-income seniors at three houses at Warm Hearth: North Trolinger, South Trolinger and the New River House.

MSS volunteers pack and distribute on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We deliver approximately 90 bags a month. Each bag contains soup, tuna or peanut butter, vegetables, fruit, rice and beans. The seniors fill out a menu each month for what they would like to have delivered the next month. MSS has 20-25 volunteers who help out each month. We also have a partnership with Panera which provides us with leftover bagels, breads and sweets each month.



Since September 2012, Micah's Soup for Seniors:

- Received over 5000 donated food items
- Delivered approximately 2500 bags of food
- Worked approximately 1200 volunteer hours

For more information about Micah's Soup for Seniors, please contact Dianne Krallman (Dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com).

2014 Annual Report

Micah's Closet (MC) began in September 2013 to provide a week's worth of new clothing to children in need through a partnership with schools, churches, community groups, businesses and individuals. The original intent is to distribute clothing in the fall and spring as the seasons change.



In 2014:

- MC had over 20 volunteer shoppers!
- Judy Clemens in partnership with the New River Community Services provided specific clothing items to 27 children in need throughout the year, up from 10 in 2013.
- MC reached a total of 49 students at Prices Fork with the spring and fall clothing distributions.
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at Virginia Tech reached out to MC during the Christmas holiday. The sorority provided clothes and boots and MC provide pajamas, socks and underwear for 11 children in the Head Start Program.
- Blacksburg's Junior Women's League held a clothing drive at one of their meetings which provided 109 clothing items to MC. These items were used in the fall clothing distribution.
- RunAbout Sports in Blacksburg donated 15 pairs of gym shoes.
- Based on what we have learned over the past two years, we have begun a monthly collection of clothes that we can use in our distributions. Look for the items to be collected monthly in the newsletter.
- For more information about Micah's Closet, please contact Sheila McCartan (mccartansheila@gmail.com).

2014 Investments in Ministry through the Core Ministry Fund

(Planned vs. Actual Expenditures)

	<u>Projected 2014</u>	<u>Actual 2014</u>
Giving in Support of Spending Plan for Ministry	\$214,000	\$216,838
Sharing Our Gifts Includes gifts to Virginia Synod, Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech, and salary for Micah's Backpack staff	\$37,740	\$34,378
Worship Includes Supplies for Worship and Music Programs and Salaries	\$22,865	\$20,459
Youth and Education Ministry Includes Youth and Family Programs, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Child Care Staffing	\$11,150	\$12,152
Caring and Sharing Includes Fellowship Events, Softball and Volleyball Teams, Publicity, Future Programs and Associate in Ministry	\$8,787	\$7,888
Pastoral Support Includes Salary, Benefits, and Continuing Education	\$94,690	\$94,626
Parish Administration and Support	\$22,629	\$25,778
Property	\$19,750	\$18,761
Total Spending Plan for Ministry Investment	\$217,811	\$214,004

Notes:

1. *Spending in the Core Ministry Fund exceeded giving by \$2,833.*
2. *Total Giving to All Funds in 2014 (including Core Ministry Fund, Facilities Expansion Fund, Justice and Mercy Fund, Micah's Backpack and other Restricted Funds) was \$394,455.*
3. *The Balance in the Justice and Mercy Fund at the end of 2014 is \$7,306.*
4. *The Balance in the Property Maintenance Fund at the end of 2014 is \$12,595.*
5. *The mortgage balance with Thrivent at the end of 2014 is \$422,941.71.*

2015 Investments in Ministry Plan

Investments in Ministry Partnerships: Sharing Our Gifts	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Virginia Synod and ELCA	22,500	21,500
Mission Congregation Partnerships	1,200	1,800
Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program	3,120	3,120
ChildFund International	0	720
Community Ministry Support	900	600
Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech	4,000	4,000
Micah's Backpack Staff Support	<u>6,180</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Total	37,900	37,740

Investments in Core Ministries: Worship	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Choral Director	7,248	7,037
Choral Director Continuing Education	600	400
Music and Choir Supplies	1000	1000
9:00 AM Accompanist	2,951	2,951
11:00 AM Accompanist	7,377	7,377
6:30 PM Accompanist	2,210	1,800
Accompanist Continuing Education	600	200
Instrumentalist	400	200
Organist Substitutes	150	150
Inserts and Bulletins	500	600
Altar Supplies	550	600
Miscellaneous	<u>500</u>	<u>550</u>
Total	24,086	22,660



Investments in Core Ministries: Caring and Sharing	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Associate in Ministry	5,123	4,973
Associate in Ministry Continuing Education	200	100
Fellowship	800	800
Evangelism/Publicity	600	800
Sports Teams	450	350
Older Kids Senior Adult Ministry	400	400
Future Programs	500	500
Appreciation	400	400
Miscellaneous	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
Total	8,623	8,472

Investments in Core Ministries: Youth and Education Ministry	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Youth	----	----
Youth Activities	1,700	1,700
Family Programs	1,200	1,200
Youth Ministry Staff	2,880	0
Nursery Worker	2,000	2,000
Education	----	----
Christian Education	1,300	1,500
Confirmation	1,200	1,900
WELCA National Gathering	0	1,000
Subscriptions/Devotionals	1,400	1,300
Miscellaneous	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	11,210	10,650



Investments in Core Ministries: Faith Milestone Ministry	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
New Baby Ministry	75	75
Faithchest Resources	225	225
Faith Builders Toolbox Resources	150	150
Grief Resources	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	500	500



Sunday School Choir Singing in Worship

Investments in Core Ministries: Pastoral Support	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Salary	39,458	37,759
Housing	21,516	21,516
Pension, Insurance	25,884	21,000
Social Security	7,383	7,065
Mileage Reimbursement	5,000	5,000
Continuing Education, Professional Expenses	<u>2,350</u>	<u>2,350</u>
Total	101,591	94,690

Investments in Core Ministries: Support	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Materials	50	50
Workshop	100	100
Miscellaneous	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	200	200

Investments in Core Ministries: Parish Administration	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Administrative Assistant	11,302	9,679
Social Security	3,600	3,200
Office Supplies	1,600	1,600
Postage	1,300	1,100
Copier Maintenance	3,700	2,700
Telephone	900	900
Internet and Online Services	2,100	1,400
Conventions and Conferences	850	850
Staff Retirement Assistance	700	700
Miscellaneous	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Total	26,552	22,629

Investments in Preventative Maintenance and Ongoing Restoration	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Improvements	500	500
General Maintenance & Repairs	750	750
Insurance - Church	4,200	4,200
Custodian Services	3,200	3,100
Utilities	4,200	3,600
Snow Removal	500	500
Pest Control	400	400
Capital Replacement	3,600	3,600
Miscellaneous	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	20,450	19,750

Ministry Fund Spending Plan vs. Projected Giving	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Spending Plan for Ministry	231,431	217,811
Projected Core Ministry Fund Giving	222,500	214,000
Designated Gift for Youth Ministry Staff	2,000	0
Grant Support for Micah's Backpack Staff Support	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3000</u>
Total Estimated Support for Core Ministry Fund	227,500	217,000



Investments in Preventative Maintenance and Ongoing Restoration:	<u>2015</u>
Landscaping & Maintenance	2,500
Equipment Maintenance	500
HVAC Control System Replacement	2,000
Heat Pump Maintenance	<u>1,870</u>
Total	6,870

Investments in Growing with Faith Fund: Monthly Mortgage vs. Estimated Giving	<u>2015</u>
Monthly Mortgage on Classroom Addition	55,284
Estimated Giving to Growing with Faith	50,000

Notes on 2015 Investment in Ministry Plan

- As we approach the end of the year, it appears that giving to the Core Ministry Fund in 2014 will total about \$216,000.
- After considering estimates of giving and historical trends, it appears that will have approximately \$222,500 in giving to the Core Ministry Fund in 2015. In addition to that \$222,500, we can add another \$5,000 in support from grants and designated gifts to assist with staffing for Micah's Backpack and youth ministry.
- Projected giving to the Building Maintenance Fund and the Growing with Faith Fund is projected to decrease slightly during 2015.
- The most significant increases in the 2015 Investment in Ministry Plan involve expanded support for our staff. The plan includes a 3% raise for members of the staff, a 4.5% raise for Pastor John, an 8% increase in the cost of Pastor John's health insurance, the addition of youth ministry staff and additional hours for administrative support (total of 825 hours) to meet the growing needs of the congregation.
- We had several areas that decreased this year to reflect actual spending including the removal of a one-time expense for the national WELCA convention and fewer confirmands going to camp in 2015.
- Increased spending for the copier reflects the fact that our copier is aging and the company in increasing the cost to cover it. We have received word that the copier company will no longer provide a service contract for our copier after August 2015.
- Each year, St. Michael shares over 16% of our gifts to the Core Ministry Fund with ministries outside our congregation. This year, we have increased support of local community ministry, ended our partnership with the ChildFund International and will continue to provide \$100 per month to help support Bedford Lutheran Church.
- The plan projects a \$13,620 increase in investment and projects a \$3,931 deficit for 2015.