

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Outreach & Missions**

presents the 21st Annual



***An Alternative Christmas
Gift-Giving Market***



*In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify
your Father in heaven.*

– Matthew 5:16

**November 12, 2023
8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**

Our virtual Gifts of Grace runs Nov. 12-30!
www.holymichael.org/giftsofgrace

Gifts of Grace provides an alternative Christmas gift-giving market to support those less fortunate in our community.

Local agencies will participate to make a difference in people's lives.

Your gifts will contribute to food, clothing, shelter, medical care, disaster relief, and opportunities for independence for those people served by these agencies.



**NOVEMBER IS
GRATITUDE
&
GRACE
MONTH**

**Your support strengthens
our community roots.**

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16

Matthew gives us a great piece of wisdom about evangelism in this verse. We are definitely called to evangelize through our words about Jesus Christ. But we are also called to evangelize through lives lived in love and devotion to Jesus which lead to the spiritual fruit of good deeds. This love of Jesus and the life it inspires is likened to a blazing light shining before others. The kind of life that makes others thank God for us. The kind of life that might aid in God's plan to make disciples of all nations.

It is a high calling, to be sure, one which we likely don't answer perfectly. But Jesus gives us plenty of instruction on what this life looks like. Those who love Jesus will keep his commandments, central among which are the inseparable love of God and love of neighbor. And he explains this love further in the Gospels. We are to love and to serve the poor, the outcast, the widow, the oppressed, and even those who curse us. Where to start?

There is more than a lifetime of work in those commandments, and so we do our best. Gifts of Grace is a wonderful example of a way we can begin to answer the call of Jesus to be a light shining before others. By discerning and giving to some of the various organizations and ministries that seek to address the immense needs of people in the Raleigh area, we answer a part of our call to discipleship. We can extend love to neighbors we might never meet in person. We can extend the love of charity and the sharing of resources gratuitously, just as God has extended boundless love gratuitously to us. In so doing, we acknowledge that God is the source of all we have and that in response to that love and gift, we are willing to share generously and even blindly at times with others.

It is one small way that we can be a light that shines before others, and I hope that you will join me in taking it up this November.

—The Rev. David W. Nichols

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Alliance Medical Ministry

AMM provides comprehensive, affordable healthcare to working, uninsured adults in Wake County. AMM's holistic approach addresses the mind, body, and spirit offering Pastoral Care/Counseling and a Garden & Wellness Program. This includes gardening, nutrition, cooking, diabetes management/prevention, and exercise classes.

Community Music School

Founded in 1994, Community Music School believes every child with a passion for music should have access to affordable, high quality music instruction. With a tuition cost of \$1 per week, CMS is the only organization in Wake County that provides private, professionally taught music instruction exclusively to children and youth, ages 7 through 18, for whom one-on-one music instruction would not be possible due to numerous barriers that limit access.

Community Success Initiative

Community Success Initiative (CSI) was founded as a non-profit corporation in May 2004 with a vision to create communities where people discover their potential, set worthy goals for their lives, and take action in a positive way, with an emphasis on men and women who are transitioning from prison and jail, or who otherwise find themselves entangled in the criminal justice system.

Episcopal Farmworker Ministry

The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry at Newton Grove responds to the needs of the farmworkers and their families. Donations help with the overall welfare of the surrounding community in the areas of health, transportation, disaster relief, food distribution, clothing, ESL training, immigration services, and mental health needs.

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” – Galatians 5:13

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Families Together

Families Together believes every family deserves a home, and children should never have to wonder where they're going to sleep at night. Through housing support, mentoring, life skills training and connection to community resources, FT moves Wake families with children from homelessness to home.

FIGS (Filling in Gaps)

Started in 1982 by a group of Wake County residents, health professionals, and area churches, FIGS provides prescription medicine and medical supplies for uninsured and underinsured Wake County residents needing help purchasing their medication and medical supplies.

Healing Transitions

Healing Transitions' mission is to offer innovative peer-based recovery services to homeless and underserved individuals with alcoholism and other drug addictions. The program provides hope and rekindles a person's desire and ability to return to a meaningful and productive life.

Hilltop Home

Hilltop Home is a non-profit, specialized residential home serving infants and children who have severe to profound developmental disabilities and are medically fragile. The staff provides medical, therapeutic and educational services in a home-like environment. St. Michael's parishioners have been closely connected and involved for many years.

InterAct

For more than 40 years, InterAct has saved lives, rebuilt lives, and secured safer futures for individuals and families experiencing domestic or sexual violence in our community. Each year, InterAct reaches more than 10,000 people in Wake County, including more than 6,900 victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence through direct services, outreach, and education.

Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

– Matthew 5:42

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves and Fishes is a long-term, relationship-based program working with children of limited means. Established in 1982, they provide classroom and enrichment activities to improve academic performance, strengthen social and emotional skills, and build resilience to improve children's success in school and beyond.

MATCH of NC (Mothers And Their Children)

MATCH, a prison ministry, strives to break the cycle of children following their mother's path to prison. MATCH trains mothers in parenting and facilitates visits with their children in the home-like environment of the MATCH Center at the NC Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh.

NeighborHealth

Healthcare is the mission at NeighborHealth Center. This is a primary care clinic serving Christ by loving their neighbors through excellent, compassionate, and accessible healthcare. The neighbors are the underserved of all ages, ethnicities, backgrounds, and religious beliefs in Wake County. With partnerships and support, NeighborHealth envisions a community where all have a healthcare home and can experience God's love.

Oak Ranch/Children's Homes of NC

Oak Ranch's Family Care offers a supportive Christian-based group home for hard-working single mothers and their children. The program provides a goal-focused living environment within a cottage setting. Family Care is specifically structured to help mothers transition to a successful, independent living situation.

SAFEchild

SAFEchild's mission is to eliminate child abuse in Wake County by helping families create healthy, nurturing environments free from violence and neglect. Nine child abuse prevention and intervention programs, including the services available at the SAFEchild Advocacy Center, impact 15,000 lives each year.

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. – Hebrews 6:10

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

SouthLight Healthcare

Founded in 1970, SouthLight Healthcare (SouthLight) is Wake County's leading provider of high-quality behavioral healthcare, bringing stability to lives of more than 7,000 clients annually and empowering them in their recovery from substance use and mental health disorders.

StepUp Ministry

StepUp Ministry helps adults and children transform their lives through employment and life skills training. Through workshops and case management, StepUp participants overcome barriers to employment such as criminal backgrounds, prior substance abuse, and lack of education/training.

The Center for Volunteer Caregiving

The center supports older adults and adults with disabilities living independently in Wake County. Volunteer services include friendly visiting, telecare, grocery shopping, escorted transportation to medical appointments and stores, and family caregiver respite visits. Last year, 281 volunteers in Wake County provided nearly 11,000 hours of free services.

The Diaper Train at Saint Saviour's Center

Saint Saviour's Center assists families and seniors who have an income, yet struggle to make ends meet. Programs include The Diaper Train – distributing baby diapers to families who can't afford them, and Healthy Living for Seniors – wellness classes for older adults in public housing.

Urban Ministries of Wake County

UMWC distributes a week's worth of fresh groceries to families in need; provides medical and behavioral health care, diabetes education, prescriptions, and vaccinations to uninsured adults; and is a safe haven for homeless women offering shelter, case management, medical and mental health care, and workforce development.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

– Galatians 5:13

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Wake Relief

Wake Relief is a volunteer ecumenical organization that provides emergency food for people in Wake County. They provide a week's supply of nutritionally balanced food for clients who are referred from local agencies.

Wheels4Hope

Wheels4Hope turns donated cars into local blessings. Their mission is to provide affordable, reliable transportation to economically vulnerable families and individuals who are referred by various partner agencies. Donated vehicles are repaired to provide transportation for the recipients.

ECW CHAPTER TRADITIONS

St. Elizabeth's Yeast Rolls
St. Madeleine's Pimento Cheese
St. Margaret's Cookie Jars
St. Mary's Bean Soup Mix

FROM THE GIFTS OF GRACE COMMITTEE

“Dohme's Own” Gorgonzola Dressing

**We will offer a variety of breakfast goodies
in the kitchen during the Gifts of Grace event.
Don't forget to stop by for a cup of coffee and a treat!**

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

– Romans 6:6-8

OPTIONS FOR GIVING

Our flagship Outreach event will be held in person on Nov. 12, and online Nov. 12-30. Join us!

**We go live on November 12—
Let's show our Gratitude and Grace!**

Options for giving:

1. Attend Gifts of Grace on Nov. 12!
We will accept cash, cards & checks.
You will receive cards to send to your friends and family.
2. Fill out the form at the end of this booklet; mail it with a check.
3. Beginning Nov. 12, visit holymichael.org/giftsofgrace to make online donations to the participating agencies.
4. Beginning Nov. 12, Smart phone/tablet users: Hold your camera over the QR code below. You will be re-directed to the giving page where you can donate to the agencies of your choice. If that doesn't work, you may need to download a QR code scanner— or just visit holymichael.org to donate. If you have donation issues, contact Ann Garey (garey@holymichael.org).



Gift Acknowledgement:

- Upon receiving your online or mailed donation, we will e-mail a printable card so that you can make copies and send to your loved ones. Extra cards will also be available in the lobby.

*Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
– Romans 12:13*

*After giving, an acknowledgement card will be e-mailed to you.
You can print as many as you need and give them to your honorees.*

cut here and return by Nov. 30



PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT(S) OF GRACE.

A donation to be shared by all agencies:

\$ _____

Or to the following agency (agencies):

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

I have listed additional agencies on the back.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to SMEC

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Please return donation by Nov. 30 to:
GIFTS OF GRACE
attn: Susan Little
1520 Canterbury Road
Raleigh, NC 27608

2023 GIFTS OF GRACE COMMITTEE

Jessica Schindler & Margaret Sarda
Co-Chairs

Laurie Barnhart
Nancy Board
Lochie Coffey
Frances Fontaine
Annette Guirlinger
Mimi Keravuori
Clair Marshall
Pansy Morton

Jessie Oakley
Kate Rivers
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Scotty Steele
Jane Stikeleather
Karen Wagoner
Ginny Zehr

*“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of
hard work we must help the weak, remembering
the words the Lord Jesus himself said:
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”*

– Acts 20:35

