



St. Michael the Archangel
Episcopal Church

February

2011

The
Cupcake
Diaries

Editor's Comments

Enjoy the first edition of *The Cupcake Diaries*, our monthly parish magazine filled with opportunities for all of us to find out more about our Parish and Diocesan events and to take an in-depth look at our church, our ministries, and our faith. This month our Senior Warden Ken Davis will share information about the Vestry and the Vestry Visioning Day in February. Director of Music Ministry Ruth Witt has taken time to tell us about Lenten choir preparations. Also, take a look at important dates coming in February. Calendars will still be on our web site and St. Michael's Matters, as well. *The Cupcake Diaries* is an additional way to share information. It's also a work in progress, and it's the parish magazine (so your voices are important!). So, stay tuned.



The Cupcake Diaries is a monthly magazine of the Parish of St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church in Lexington, Kentucky. It is available online and in print, if requested. Comments, subscriptions, and ideas are welcomed at mail@saint-michaels.org.

St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church

www.saint-michaels.org

The Rev. Laurie M. Brock, Rector

Mr. Duncan Hart, Office Manager and Editor

Ms. Ruth Witt, Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Candice Lucas, Director of Youth Ministry

Musical Notes

It was suggested that I use these initial articles to describe what life is like for our choirs. Here's a short description of how we pass the time during the winter:

The post-Christmas months are fairly quiet times for the Novice Choristers, Choristers and Chancel Choir. The weather always plays a role in our rehearsal plans - some nights we don't meet because the roads are too hazardous - but, by and large, we manage to keep ourselves prepared to lead worship.

The main goal for me during this quiet time is to focus on vocal development. There are no big services to prepare until Ash Wednesday so we can work ahead on our music and concentrate on vocal issues at the same time. The greater portion of this focus is with the kids but there are always fine-tuning things the adults can address. Intonation (singing in tune), breath control, extending vocal range, placement of the vocal stream (that's the air coming out of your mouth as you sing), vowel unification, pitched consonants, facial musculature...its a long list! And the work isn't that exciting, but its what makes the difference between an average volunteer choir and the choir you hear at St. Michael's on Sunday mornings. All our singers are dedicated to this level of discipline, willing to put the time in to make the changes and improvements that guarantee consistent excellence and beauty in our Sunday offerings. Their great attitude is the reason why I've been successful with this disciplined training. Any time I shift into "dragon lady mode" they sigh, square their shoulders, hunker down and get to work.

One of the things that impressed Mother Laurie is the fact that our singers are all parishioners, all volunteers. Not a paid singer in the whole group; just God's good people working hard to give the best of themselves that they can. We have many different levels of musical training and/or experience in the group, from those with music degrees to those with a great love of singing and a willingness to let Ms.



Ruth "work on them". They're in for the long haul; some have been with me since my first Sunday on the bench, showing a dedication to their parish that far outweighs any dedication they have for their choir director. And that's a wonderful thing!

Word from the Mother

So here's the story of the name Your faithful office staff have been imagining and thinking and exploring names for this magazine (because "newsletter" sounds so, well, boring). We went the traditional route and the even more traditional route until one of our creative parishioners who supplied cupcakes for the reception at the Celebration of New Ministry said, "What about The Cupcake Diaries." That became the working title, and it seems fine with me. I actually like the idea of all the magazines and newsletters from parishes on a table at Mission House: The Angelus, The Visitor, The Herald, and The Cupcake Diaries.

Which one would you pick up and read?

Church is often too solemn, like somewhere about the 5th Century, the Early Church Fathers and even a few Mothers, decided that solemnity was in and laughter and joy were unacceptable in Holy Gatherings. We even refuse to see humor in Holy Scripture (and it's there, trust me).

Our faith is very serious. Our faith and God accompany us in times of trial and sadness, but faith and God are with us in joy and laughter, too. Laughter is one of God's favorite prayers, I think. The sounds of joy that burst forth from our soul in giggles and smiles—now, tell me that's not of God. Not every moment in Church and on our faith journeys will be filled with laughter. Sometimes we need to be very solemn. Sometimes we need to cry. Sometimes we need to be angry. But we also need to smile, to play, to run barefooted across the grass, and to let our laughing prayers burst forth from our lips.

And The Cupcake Diaries makes me smile, even laugh. I hope it does for you, too (after, perhaps, you get over the, "Really?" factor). So, for right now, this is the title, but we are taking suggestions.

Also, thank you again for a spectacular Celebration of New Ministry. I was overwhelmed with the love and joy and laughter (and cupcakes!). As I've said before, I've been waiting for St. Michael's for a long time. Being here in this place is an answer to many prayers, and I love this place. I love that I can be authentic with you. I pray you can always be authentic with me. Together, we'll laugh and cry and love.

Thank you.

Mother Laurie

Senior Warden Moments

Upcoming Vestry Retreat – February 11 and February 12.

Every new Vestry is different from the one before, even if only a few members change. The main purpose of a retreat is for the new Vestry to spend time together, looking forward to next year's opportunities and challenges. This year there are 3 new members: Bruce Hinds, David Hafley, and Cindy Wyatt. The outgoing members are: Duncan Hart, Rupert Pickens, and Laura Whayne. The outgoing members are thanked for their faithful service and accomplishments and the incoming members are thanked for their willingness to serve. This year, we have a new Rector as well. We will be electing a new Junior Warden and clerk.

The plan calls for a dinner on the 11th where all can socialize and get to know one another better. Even though people may know one another already, they will be working closely together in the coming year and will not have had the experience of working together on this Vestry. The working part of the retreat will take place on Saturday, February 12th from 9AM to 4PM at Mission House.

This year, the meeting will begin with a leadership discussion after reviewing the personal leadership diagrams that each member was asked to bring. This discussion will be followed by a session where each person shares their wishes, hopes, and dreams for St. Michaels. This information will be used to help identify potential areas of responsibility and organization. Following this will be a Vestry agenda that is more routine. Approval of minutes from the last meeting in December, election of a new Jr. Warden and Clerk, a report on Stewardship status, and Treasurer's Report. The Vestry will then discuss vision, and approve a budget for 2011. Lastly, the Vestry will move from "vision to reality" in deciding on the organization and individual goals necessary for success in the coming year.

The Vestry meets on every third Tuesday of each month thereafter. There is an executive committee used for quick action and some assignments done on behalf of the Vestry. The committee is composed of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and clerk. The Rector is always invited but may not necessarily participate in committee work. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ken Davis, Senior Warden at either 859-338-1740 or email at lex2krd@aol.com.



Dates to Remember

Feb. 2nd	Candlemas Eucharist
Feb. 5th	Eucharist Visitor Training
Feb. 10th	St. Michael's Night Out - Gattitown
Feb. 11th -12th	Vestry Retreat
Feb. 13th	PEACE Group
Feb. 17th	Men's Club
Feb. 18th	Chanson
Feb. 24th-26th	Diocesan Convention

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Eucharist: 7:50, 8:50 and 11:15 AM

Christian Formation for all ages at 10:00 AM

Wednesday Healing Eucharist at 6:00 PM

Fifth Sunday Eucharist: 10:00 AM

Complete Event Schedule: www.saint-michaels.org/events

Thank You Thank You Thank You

Hats off to the Hospitality Committee ...

... and all the folks that made the "Celebration of New Ministry" Service such a nice evening. We cannot thank you enough.



This page will be a place to say thanks each month. Who do we need to thank? Let me know and it runs in the next edition of *The Cupcake Diaries*. We'd also love to run pictures of the Celebration and any St. Michael's event, to send as a jpeg file by email and let's ...

... Share all the great moments that happen at St. Michael's.

Last but Certainly Not Least ...

St. Michael's has a dedicated team of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV's), active members of our congregation who take the sacrament (the bread and wine) to members of our parish who cannot attend services because of illness or infirmity. To be a LEV, a minister must be a confirmed communicant in good standing (Canonical words that mean you attend church at St. Michael's regularly and are active). LEV's also go through regular training and been licensed by the Diocese.

Like all churches, our parish has members who, because of illness or age, cannot regularly attend Sunday Eucharist. Lay Eucharistic Visitors bring St. Michael's to them. Beginning in February, you'll see the LEV's come forward at the end of Communion and receive their boxes and a blessing. Inside the boxes are the hosts and wine that have been consecrated during Communion. The LEV's will go directly from our Holy Eucharist at St. Michael's to the homes of those who will then share in our Sunday Communion. They are with us and we are with them in Christ through the ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Last year, these ministers made over 100 visits in the name of this congregation.

If you are interested in being part of this important and vital ministry of St. Michael's, please talk to Nancy Pickens or Mother Laurie. Our next licensing session will be on Saturday, February 5th from 10:00 am until noon. Even if you aren't sure, you are welcomed to come and see.



If you have any pieces of the Home Communion Kits, please bring them to the church ASAP. We are doing inventory to order new kits. Thanks!