



St. Michael the Archangel
Episcopal Church

March
2011

The Cupcake Diaries

Editor's Comments

Our second edition of *The Cupcake Diaries* will take us through March and the start of Lent. This month our Senior Warden Ken Davis will discuss the importance of our next Sacred Conversation, March 22nd. Director of Music Ministry Ruth Witt has taken time to tell us the history behind Evensongs and invites us to come and enjoy the Lenten Evensong, March 27. Theresa Hart tells us about our school celebrating 50 years at their annual Live and Silent Auction on March 11th.

Last, but not least, Candice will tell us about the next Happening and what this means to our youth. Also, take a look at important dates coming in March. 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. We continue to be a work in progress, and it's the parish magazine (so your voices are important!). To use a TV term, 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

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Musical Notes

Writings from Ms. Ruth

Evensong. Since the late Middle Ages “evensong” has been the popular name for vespers.*

Vespers. The early evening office of prayer in the church. Early Christians continued the Jewish custom of prayer at the time when daylight faded and the lamps were lit. Archbishop Cramner combined vespers with other offices for the BCP office of Evening Prayer.* Add sung responses, collects, psalm, canticles and closing prayers and you have what we know today as Evensong.

The form of Evensong we now take for granted didn't exist in England until the nineteenth century. Prior to this, Morning and Evening Prayer were “weekly recitations of responses between vicar and clerk, expansive sermonizing and noisy psalmody.”** Many Anglicans, both clergy and lay, were longing for some semblance of dignity and reverence in worship, something that would transcend the liturgy they were experiencing....or for some, enduring. A good example of “that which must be endured” are the Preces and Responses of 1756 Anglican worship. After attending Evening Prayer where the Preces and Responses were read, the poet Thomas Cowper wrote “I could wish that the clergy would inform their congregation that there is no occasion to scream themselves hoarse in

making their responses; that the town crier is not the only person qualified to pray with true devotion; and that he who bawls the loudest may, nevertheless, be the wickedest fellow in the parish.”***

By the 1830s the move was on to create something better, more beautiful, a clearer reflection of God's presence in worship. Evening Prayer began to transform into a service that was quiet, orderly, reverent and artistically beautiful. This new liturgy answered a deep need in nineteenth century congregations. It still does today.

Our Lenten Evensong, on March 27 at 5:00 pm, will embody the quiet reverent spirit that our Anglican predecessors created 180 years ago. The Preces and Responses will be sung, not bellowed. The psalm will be chanted in the timeless Anglican chant tradition. The canticles – Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis – will be contemplative as befits the Lenten season. The anthems will revere the soul's longing for a deep relationship with Christ.

Please join the Choristers, Chancel Choir, Mother Laurie and me on March 27. Evensong is always meant, as is all worship, to open the window between human and divine, allowing God's love and empowering spirit to enter our nave and our souls. Allow us to enrich your Lenten journey this year. Let God, through this elegant liturgy, fill you with quiet, peace and reverence.

*Armentrout/Slocum, “An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church”

**Bernarr Rainbow, “The Choral Revival in the Anglican Church, 1839-1872”, p.14

*** W. Cowper, “Mr. Village and Mr. Town,” *The Connoisseur*, 1756; quoted in the *The Englishmen's Magazine*, no. XXX, p. 152.

Word from the Mother

Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencton*, the time of year when days grew longer. The season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Easter Triduum, the liturgy that begins with Maundy Thursday and ends with the Easter Vigil. In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for those new converts who would be baptized on Easter. For us in the church today, it is a time to reflect upon the meaning of our own baptisms and the meaning of living in the community of Christ.

Lent is a journey, from remembering that we are dust, to celebrating that God's love for us is so profound and deep, that even in our darkest moment on Good Friday, we were loved and forgiven into Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Lent is a journey for us here at St. Michael's. Growth and change are challenging, even when the growth and change are what we want. Newness can cause us to feel discomfort, even while we are excited to be part of the becoming. Anxiety begins to creep in as we think we are overwhelmed, and faith becomes a word we say, but not a feeling we believe.

Jesus reminds us that the opposite of faith is anxiety. Anxiety is the belief that we and we alone are solely responsible for our lives, that God does not want good for us, and that

whatever purpose we at St. Michael's have for being, it's ours to control.

Faith, however, is believing that God does want good for us, and that God with us is working in the life and ministry of St. Michael's to create something wonderful and amazing. Many years ago, God called this community of faith of St. Michael's into being. God is still calling us into being. And God wants good for us. I always hear God say to me when I let anxiety have too much power, "Do you trust me?"

At times in my life, I trust easily. At other times, trust in God comes with struggle. Lent is a journey of trust, from the desert of the first Sunday of Lent to the Palm Sunday parade that suddenly goes horribly dark to the first moments of daybreak on Easter Day that surprise and frighten the women who witnessed the goodness of God. This journey of trust reminds us that God rarely works things out the way we'd like, but God does work, and God calls us to work. St. Michael's walks this journey, as well.

So, do we hear God saying to us, "People of St. Michael's, do you trust me?"

And can we say, even tentatively, "Yes, we do."?

Senior Warden Moments

We had a very successful Vestry retreat. I am thrilled to be working with such spiritual, dedicated, and caring people. Coming out of the retreat, your leadership is optimistic about the positive direction the Church is headed. After years of declining attendance and membership, you should know that we are now doing all the “right things” to retain parishioners and to grow new members and it’s working.

However, growth for growth’s sake is not the business of the church. We grow because we are excited about what we have to share and because we want others to experience the love and ministry we experience. People are not simply numbers; they are voices and hearts and souls that we welcome into St. Michael’s. This approach to growth allows for slow and steady growth.

While we are growing in this way, we are not where we want to be. Our present is not our future. We are working towards a balanced budget, but we are not there yet. This year, we will have to borrow in the neighborhood of \$70,000 to fund current programs, and our current loan limit is reached if we borrow \$40,000 more. The vestry is aware and is taking steps to respond to this budget shortfall.

The vestry has prayerfully approached the 2011 budget and has decided to approve the deficit budget, realizing that any actions we take to significantly lower expenses will potentially damage and jeopardize the recovery we are now seeing. With that in mind, the vestry will re-assess the budget in June and see what actions may need to be taken to position the Church for next year. Saint Michael’s is not in imminent danger, but we are all called to commit to growth, to St. Michael’s, and to the faith that God wants good for us.

The vestry and Mother Laurie feel strongly that the parish should have ample opportunity to be informed about various areas of ministry and life within the parish. Beginning this year, St. Michael’s will gather for periodic Sacred Conversations. Topics will include outreach and Christian Formation. The first one will be March 22 from 6:30 until 8:00 to allow for information and exchange of ideas on church finances. We will begin with prayer and end with prayer, so the discussion will be part of our prayer, as well. The current status, outlook, and actions taken to date will be shared. Ideas will be solicited. Please plan on attending this gathering.

Dates to Remember

March 9th **Ash Wednesday-
12:30–6:00 pm Services**

March 13th **Service Times Change:
8:00, 9:00, and 11:15
Breakfast all morning**

March 17th **Men's Club**

March 18 -20th **Happening**

March 22nd **Sacred Conversation**

March 27th **Lenten Evensong**

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00, 9:00 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

Youth News

Happening.

What's Happening? It sounds like a common phrase one might hear among friends, but to the youth of our Diocese, this is a question each can only answer for him/herself.

As a sophomore in high school, I had been to Saint George's Day at the Cathedral Domain and had loved getting to meet other youth around the region. As I was not Episcopalian, I'd never heard of Happening and thought it was another event like Saint George's Day in which we'd dance, swim, hike a bit, and just hang out with each other.

A few of my Episcopalian friends had been to Happening and I began to investigate. To my frustration, not one would give me any clue as to what I might expect by returning to the Mountain for a weekend. Though I'd decided it was simply elitist taunting, I was determined to be in on the secret and attend Happening #20.

This event catapulted me into an awakening to myself, those around me, and God. The

events that occurred and the love that was offered and received have stayed with me and aided me in my personal spiritual development and dedication to my fellow people by allowing God to work through me.

Happening #47 will occur this March 18-20. Happening is a Christian experience presented by teenagers for teenagers. It is sponsored by the Episcopal Church and is designed for all youth in grades 10 - 12. While events are put into place to encourage a community among the participants, leaders, and God, each who go must decide what is Happening for themselves. The closing Eucharist will be held on Sunday, March 20 with Mother Laurie officiating the Mass. <http://www.cathedraldomain.org/>

Please support our attending youth by offering your prayers, positive energy, and kind words. For more information as to what you can do for the Happening weekend please see me, Candice. Domain Love



St. Michael's School

Celebrating 50 Years! **St. Michael's School**

Who would think anything 50 Years Old could feel so young? Just take a walk through the lower level of St. Michael's Church any day during the school year and you'll feel nothing but youthful! Since the '60 - '61 school year, parents have entrusted the first education of their children to the warm, loving, attentive and skilled teachers of St. Michael's School. The School started as a neighborhood Kindergarten, but has grown and changed to adapt to the needs of our community.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Michael's School, we invite alumni, parents, past teachers and church parishioners to join us on Friday, March 11th at 7:00 pm for the annual Live & Silent Auction. This "grown-up" event will be a chance to get together with our

St. Michael's Family - old and new. Taking place in the Parish Hall, the evening includes hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Call 277-7541 to R.S.V.P - tickets are \$10.00 in advance, and \$15.00 at the door.

Today's St. Michael's School offers classes for 3 and 4 Year Olds plus a Young 5s class. Art, Music, P.E. and Spanish are special classes all students experience weekly. An age appropriate Chapel service is attended on Fridays and all the children enjoy learning about God's love and miracles. Everyone is always welcome to come and visit the school, or please check out our website www.smslex.org for more information and some really cool photos! You will definitely feel "youthful"!

