

Volume 1 Edition 3



St. Michael the Archangel
Episcopal Church

April
2011

The
Cupcake
Diaries

Our third edition of *The Cupcake Diaries* takes us through April and Holy Week. This month our Senior Warden Ken Davis will review information from our Sacred Conversation on Parish Finances. Holy Week is spotlighted, from the schedule to why we celebrate particular liturgies (including some new ones at St. Michael's).

Can you believe we need to think about summer? Lynne Evans will tell us about camp options at the

Cathedral Domain. Finally, Donna Ingram explains how all us working together can have a major impact on our parish income.

More information is still 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.

What Needs Can You Meet?

We need lawn mowers for our church.

Would you like to be an usher?

Would you like to help keep St. Michael's organized and clean?

Would you like to be part of one of our liturgical ministries:

**Altar Guild, Lectors and Intercensors,
and Chalice Bearers?**



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

Holy Week

Holy Week is a deep, meaningful time of the church year with liturgical roots going back to the first Christian celebrations. In the early First and Second Century church, Easter was (and remains) the primary feast of the Christian year. Through the centuries, the Church has added and tweaked liturgies to further draw us into the magnificent mysteries of Holy Week.

We at St. Michael's will journey together with Christ in his last days. From adding new services to making changes to existing services to retaining traditional elements, this is going to be an exciting and spiritually rewarding time.

New to Holy Week this year will be services each day of the week. We will have Evening Prayer on Monday and Tuesday night at 6:00. Members are asked to volunteer to be readers and officiants. Another new service will be Tenebrae on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Tenebrae is an ancient candlelight service of lessons and psalms. As each lesson is read a candle will be

extinguished until the church is dark.

We will again commemorate the Triduum (the service beginning with Maundy Thursday and ending with the Easter Vigil). We will strip the altar on Maundy Thursday and offer a place of prayer at the Altar of Repose until the 12:30 Good Friday service (the only Good Friday service). At 7:00 pm on Friday evening, we will pray the Stations of the Cross outside, weather permitting.

On Saturday morning we will have our Holy Saturday service. The Great Vigil of Easter is one of the most ancient services in the Church. This is our first chance to welcome Easter and the celebration of our Risen Lord. There will be an Agape meal after the service, so make plans to join us.

We will have all three services on Easter morning. Plan to stay after the 11:15 mass for an Easter Egg hunt on the church grounds and mimosas in the garden for adults.

Word from the Mother

The Rev. Laurie M. Brock

A priest colleague wrote that Holy Week is the most significant and dramatic week of the entire Church Year. It contains some of the richest symbolism in its breadth of liturgies. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, with the Liturgy of the Palms. The day begins in celebration, as we shout, "Hosanna!" to Jesus. But the mood turns: We read the Passion Gospel and hear of Jesus's crucifixion at our insistence. We leave the service in silence, not shouts of joy. The next chapter is the Triduum, the one long service that begins on Maundy Thursday with our commemorating Jesus's commandment to do this in memory of him, and our new commandment (or *mandatum* – where Maundy comes from) to love one another as Christ has loved us. We will have the Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar – all profoundly symbolic moments of how Christ did love us. The Altar of Repose will be at the St. Michael's window in the Parish Hall, where parishioners and friends are invited to spend some quiet time in prayer and

reflection until the Good Friday services. We do not celebrate the Eucharist on Good Friday, since we commemorate Christ's death.

Then, on Saturday evening, we will gather outside to kindle the new fire, where we gather together to celebrate the glorious mystery of Christ's resurrection. Simply put in the words of ancient church writers: this is the most important liturgy of the church year. From it, our entire celebrations of joy, sadness, excitement, and awe stem.

True, attending all Holy Week services makes for a busy schedule. Our lives are often hectic, and the idea of devoting time to God in a formal way this week for three nights is daunting for many of us. But consider prayerfully how you can be a part of any or all of it, how you can open yourself to the ancient mysteries of this most troubling and glorious week, how you can best be present to say the beautiful words, "Alleluia, Christ is Risen!" on that most surprising morning of Easter.

We had a great turnout for the first Sacred Conversation of the year last Tuesday, and I thank everyone for taking the time to come and discuss the Church's financial situation. For those of you who were unable to attend, my article is intended to bring you up to speed. Your Rector and Vestry are committed to transparency and openness here.

St. Michael's financial history from 1999 through the present included both reduced income as well as cost. We were once a 1/2 Million per year church but have slid to \$270K. During this period, we were without a rector for almost 3 years, had an interim for 2 years, and had to work through some difficult issues. We relied on borrowing, which no one likes to do. However, we know we can get back to where we were again and have really started to turn the corner, thanks to the hard work of many people and the arrival of our amazing new rector. Our pledge campaign was extremely positive and our attendance is up 23% so far this year.

The Vestry again passed a deficit budget of \$70K. With our current loan ceiling of \$200K, we can only borrow \$28K more. Any possible remaining cost actions would adversely impact the church. Therefore, while we need to continue to be prudent in our expenses, and control our cost, **it is obvious that we are called to growth.** I will be going to the bank asking for an increase in our loan ceiling. The Church is not in imminent danger. Therefore, we **will NOT be reducing staff this year.**

Rest assured that your Vestry will not let the church fail. The Vestry will monitor and control discretionary expense and report monthly. The parish is asked to avoid unnecessary cost. Other things that can be done include: Keeping our pledges current, prayerfully consider a one-time gift or pledge increase if possible, and using our affinity programs (Kroger cards, parish nights out, gift cards, etc). Donate your talent and labor to the needs of the Church. If you have someone that might be interested in St. Michaels, please invite them to attend a parish event with you.

After table discussions, Vestry members presented the results. Markus Cross shared the many things being done to attract and retain people. This was an impressive list.

In conclusion, we have a wonderful church home in all the ways that matter. It is spiritual and warm and friendly. We do things together as a family. We are doing all the right things. Have faith in God, your Rector, and your Vestry. The Bishop wants us to succeed and the Diocesan relationship is good. God needs this faith community, and God wants good things for us. We ask everyone in the parish to maintain awareness and help us move forward. If you have any ideas or want to discuss or share, please contact me via phone or email

Throughout the year, we plan more Sacred Conversations on topics that are key to parish life, including another update on the financial health of the parish. Please consider attending and lending your voice to the leadership of St. Michael's.

Dates to Remember

April 10 th	Sunday Breakfast
April 17 th	Palm Sunday
April 18 - 19 th	Lenten Evening Prayer 6:00 pm
April 20 th	Tenebrae 7:00 pm
April 21 st	Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm
April 22 nd	Good Friday One Service 12:30 pm
April 23 rd	Holy Saturday 10:00 am The Great Vigil of Easter 7:00 pm
April 24 th	Easter Sunday 8:00, 9:00, 11:15 am
April 28 th	Men's Club 6:30 pm

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

Summer Camps.

It's that time of year. Vacation planning time. Need some help for those coming out of first grade to those graduating from high school? How about attending camp at the Cathedral Domain?

The Cathedral Domain is a Camps and Conference Center dedicated to providing a facility and atmosphere that promotes spiritual renewal, recreation, relaxation and education in a Christ centered environment. (from the Diocese of Lexington website)

From Mini-Camp to Sr. Conference, there's something for everyone. We now have a co-ed camp for grades 3-5, middle and high school Adventure camps (Mtr. Laurie is the chaplain for the Middle School adventure camp) and an environmental camp for grades 6-8. The complete list of dates at the Domain can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex or you can go online to

www.diorex.org and look under Cathedral Domain.

Hiking, swimming, rappelling, arts & crafts, small group discussions and Camp Store (my fave!) are just part of an exciting week. The friendships and experiences from a Domain camp are life long. From St. Michael's kids, I've heard the following: "awesome", "cool", "SWEET" and "I could spend the whole summer up here."

Sign up now to get your spot on "The Mountain to Remember". We will work to ensure that every youth from St. Michael's that wants to attend Summer Camp at the Domain will be able to attend. Just talk to Mtr. Laurie about scholarships.

Have questions? Ask Hunter & Connor Evans, Kyle Jones, Charlotte Eckmann or Lynne Evans and you'll hear about our camp experiences.

Change.

Many children collect change in a piggy bank. Some of us move on to collecting change in a jar, adding coins from our pockets and wallets every night. Most of us give up the habit. After all, it's just change. It's hard to imagine that a few coins each day can amount to over a hundred dollars in a year.

What would happen if everyone at St. Michael's collected change every day? That is, in effect, what we do through the fundraising program. It's easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at the church's budget. We've gone through the pledge process and are already giving all that we feel comfortable giving. Where are we supposed to find more money?

The fundraising program focuses on finding money in what we, as individuals, are already spending in our daily lives. We know of over two hundred businesses that are willing to donate a portion of what we spend to our church. These include department and specialty stores, grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, pharmacies, hotels, airlines, and others. If it's money that we're going to spend anyway, why not have a percentage donated to the church? Most of these programs require a little planning on our part. That isn't always possible, but often it is. Not sure where to begin? Start with where you do your grocery shopping, buy gasoline, and fill

your prescriptions, if you use any on a regular basis. If you eat out, what restaurants do you frequent? Stop by the fundraising table to see what cards are available. We'll try to keep the most popular cards in stock. Others can be ordered at the table, in the church office, or by emailing fundraising@saint-michaels.org.

Those of us who use the Internet probably also use a search engine frequently. We can raise money while searching through GoodSearch. They donate a penny to the church every time we search. They also have a GoodShop program. Through GoodShop varying percentages are donated when we shop online. The gift card program often gives more, but GoodShop includes more stores. The easiest way to start using GoodSearch/GoodShop is to go to the Stewardship page at www.saint-michaels.org. If you have questions, visit the fundraising table, call the church office, or email fundraising@saint-michaels.org.

What would happen if everyone at St. Michael's collected change every day through the fundraising program? I don't know, but I think we would all be amazed. We are already receiving about \$5000 from Kroger per year. That's four pennies for every dollar we spend there. Change. Just change.