



The Archangel's Voice

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church E-Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2015

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Together in Worship.... AMEN!

On Sunday, August 23, our church family sat down to hold group discussions on our worship together. The following is a summary of responses to the discussion questions. Some of the items listed were mentioned only once, and some were mentioned by several participants. Consensus answers were presented by a spokesperson from each group; these will be included in the December newsletter along with suggestions for the future.

1. What do we do as a part of worship you find especially meaningful?

- ◆ Communion.
- ◆ We are praying.
- ◆ We are praising God in song.
- ◆ We are having great sermons.
- ◆ The peace greeting.
- ◆ The fellowship between parishioners.
- ◆ Drums with music selections.
- ◆ Having a listening ear.
- ◆ Acceptance of others in the church like family.

2. What do we do now we might change to make worship more meaningful?

- ◆ We should include children in the service on a regular basis, e.g., children's sermon.
- ◆ We need to pray more together and for each other publicly.
- ◆ Use the Gloria from Lift Every Voice.
- ◆ Say The Lord's Prayer together standing and holding hands.
- ◆ Choose songs that are easier to sing.
- ◆ Encourage more congregational participation in prayers.
- ◆ End the service with upbeat hymn sending us out into the world to serve. Also some are unsure when it is proper to leave.
- ◆ Lay readers might pause during petitions.
- ◆ Start on time.
- ◆ Bring in other members of congregation to speak and perform.
- ◆ Eliminate special groups taking communion first. (If not, explain in bulletin why others are going first.)
- ◆ A more formal worship service following a more stringent Episcopal tradition.
- ◆ More praise music.

3. What are we not doing as part of the liturgy you believe we might add as a regular or occasional aspect of our worship?

- ◆ Create a guest relations ministry or expand the duties of the ushers. They should sit close to guest and provide guidance through the service.
- ◆ Increase the voices in the choir and thus its volume and lower the organ volume.
- ◆ Children's choir
- ◆ Invite special guests or groups once a month.
- ◆ Follow up with visitors via email, call, or a short letter.
- ◆ Advertise our services and events in newspaper, community calendars, etc., particularly holy days and feast days.
- ◆ Mid-week service
- ◆ Welcome committee
- ◆ New member packet
- ◆ Family and Friends day
- ◆ Have "carry out" bags for hungry / needy folks.
- ◆ Sunday School
- ◆ Young people conduct the service once or twice a year.
- ◆ Visiting each other outside of church.
- ◆ Transportation of homebound
- ◆ Better disability access
- ◆ Children's ministry

"Good things are happening at St. Michael. Come and see!"

KEY DATES

November 1-21
Thanksgiving Food Drive

November 8
Visitation from Canon Allison DeFoor

November 15, 22
UTO Fall Ingathering

Upcoming Events

November 4

FAMU Student Dinner and
Bible Study

November 8

Campus Ministry Meeting

Guest Trombonist,
Mr. Robert Griffin,
Associate Professor of
Music at FAMU

November 12

ECW General Meeting

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Around the Parish

Spiritual Development — Join us for Bible Inspiration, every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Brooks Room.

On the first Wednesday of each month, FAMU, FSU and TCC students are welcomed for Bible Study and Dinner. Please encourage any students you know to join us; dinner starts at 6:45 p.m. If you would like to help with a monthly student dinner, please contact Melanie Martin at mmartin1124@hotmail.com or at (850) 322-7516

Health, Wellness and Fitness.—Zumba Fitness is offered weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact *Fitness with Leslie* at <http://www.zumba.com/en-US/profiles/14141> for more information.

College Student Care Packages — St. Michael will begin sending care packages to our college students to remind them of how much their church family loves and misses them. Spearheaded by Kate Wasson, care packages will be sent to our SMAA college students each semester. If you have a child in college, please contact Kate (850/524-4122) with his or her name and address by **Friday, November 6th**. St. Michael needs your support for this very important in-reach ministry.

Math Camp Saturday — On Saturday, October 31st St. Michael held its first MATH CAMP. This fun and educational activity is designed for students in Grades 3-6, but all are welcome to attend. Stay tuned to find out when the next session will be held.

Habitat for Humanity Build — The St. Michael crew was on the job on October 10th helping to put finishing touches on a house in Midway. Additional photos of our Habitat work day are posted on our website.



Visitation by the Canon to the Ordinary — Canon Allison DeFoor will be with us on **Sunday, November 8th**, sharing in the service and celebrating the Eucharist. Let us all make sure we are present to show just how much St. Michael is a part of the "Jesus Movement."

ECW Fall General Meeting — The Episcopal Church Women will meet on Thursday, November 12th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Golden Corral on North Monroe Street. All women of St. Michael are asked to attend and participate in planning upcoming events and activities, as well as elect officers for 2016.

UTO Fall Ingathering — On November 15th and 22nd we will return to God a portion of the many blessings He has given us when we each present our United Thank Offering as a part of the Fall ingathering. Our offerings help to support the many missions of our Diocese.

God blesses us with our daily bread. With gladness and thanksgiving, let us bless others.

Grace Mission Outreach — St. Michael will continue to host the Grace Mission After School Program weekly from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through December 3rd in the parish hall. On Saturday, October 31st (fifth Saturday), St. Michael helped to serve breakfast at Grace Mission. Our next scheduled breakfast service will be January 30, 2016.

Thanksgiving Food Drive — The 2015 Thanksgiving Food Drive is in full swing. Please remember to share your blessings with members of our community who would welcome our help by dropping off contributions of non-perishable food items by Saturday, November 21st. If you know of a family who would like a gift box, please submit information to the church office.