



The Archangel's Voice

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church E-Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1



A Message from Our Rector



2017 has truly been a wonderful year for our small but dynamic congregation, as we faithfully ministered to all who joined us, and even those beyond our parochial boundaries. A casual glance at our interactions with Grace Mission, Church of the Advent and the Kearney Center bears testimony to this claim. However, it was our 135th Anniversary celebrations that proved to be the highlight for all we attempted together. Junior Warden Charlie Clark and the team that coordinated the celebrations truly did themselves proud. Together they helped us to pause and reflect on the manifold blessings we have received at the hands of a benevolent God. As fate would have it, my family and I arrived just in time to share in the festivities planned over a three-day weekend.



Throughout this celebratory time, we sought to remember the efforts of those who served as both clergy and lay here at St. Michael, as they utilized their time, talent and treasure. Quite obviously, this celebration served primarily a two-fold purpose: 1) it encouraged us to look back at the amazing journey we are a part of as a predominantly African-

American congregation, and 2) to appreciate the more than significant impact we made here as a church in Tallahassee. Not lost in this historical reminiscence, was the pivotal role played by Michaelites in the 1950's and 60's — a time of great social change and occasional unrest. Inevitably our reflection caused us to look back at the immortal Fr. David Brooks whose agitation for social justice, played such an integral part in his multi-layered ministry. I have heard stories of students coming to Tallahassee as Baptists and Pentecostals, but leaving here as Episcopalians, all because of the style-effect and compassion of Fr. Brooks. So, we paid tribute to him and all the other rectors who served before and after him. This parish owes a great debt of gratitude to them all and to Fr. Cal as well, for he labored as our interim rector, much longer than was initially envisioned. For them we say, to God be the Glory.

And now we must **turn our attention to 2018 and the crowded calendar that awaits** us. Our serving vestry led by two of the finest wardens you can ask for, Byron Greene and Charlie Clark, will help to lead the charge as together we confront the challenges ahead of us. Do be reminded that they will need our prayers and active support as they minister to us. The vestry has set an ambitious program for us as a parish and one that includes among other things, growing our parish, welcoming newcomers and rekindling our relationship with the Florida A & M University, our giant neighbor up the street. Before we fully engage that agenda, our vestry and those invited to assist, will be called upon to plan the Institution Service that will formally begin my ministry as your rector. Bishop Samuel Johnson Howard has set the date for that service: January 31, 2018. Even before that, the vestry will have us meet as a congregation and seek to envision our future work together, a future that shall include a robust evangelism outreach effort.

So friends, we have much to achieve over the next twelve months. Amidst all the frenetic activities that shall surround us, we must make time for **Quiet Days** and **Spiritual Retreats**. You can count on us having also lots of fun evenings and fundraising activities to help supplement our parish budget. And yes, we shall continue our interaction with sister churches across the Apalachee Region through Cursillo and whatever else Regional Canon John Wesley has in store for us. I know this seems like a lot, but I remind you that **we can do all things through the Christ who strengthens**. I admonish you to let us present before our God and Father every plan, every program, every project we envision. I remind you that more things get accomplished through prayer than planning; therefore, prayer must always precede everything that we seek to do. So beloved, let us seek to become more prayerful, more dedicated and more willing to serve than we did previously. Let us of necessity become more concerned about the welfare of those who cross our paths everyday — this is what good Christians do. One final thought, the young people said to us in the video presentation prepared for the 135th Anniversary celebration, that they were proud to be a part of the St. Michael experience and that we should at all cost strive to retain the family oriented atmosphere that pervades this church. Let us respond to their challenge, purposefully and intentionally, even as we work side by side for the sake of the gospel.

Fr. Hugh+

"Good things are happening at St. Michael.

Come and see!"

KEY DATES

January 1

THE MOST HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

January 6

THE EPIPHANY

January 14

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 18

THE CONFESSION OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

January 25

THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

February 2

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

February 13

Absalom Jones, Priest

February 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 24

SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE



Upcoming Events

January 1, 12 noon
Potluck Fellowship

Tuesdays, 12:15 pm
Said Mass

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm
(Will resume January 10)
Bible Study in
The Brooks Room

Thursdays, 6:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal

January 3, 6:00 pm
Stewardship Meeting in
The Brooks Room

January 3, February 7
Supper Service at
The Kearney Center

January 7, 4:00 pm
Discipleship Group
Meeting in The Brooks
Room

**January 8, 6:00 pm-
7:30 pm**
Vestry Meeting

**January 13, 10:00 am-
2:00 pm**
Lay Leadership Workshop
at Camp Weed

**January 20, 9:00 am-
11:30 am**
Eucharistic Visitors
Training at Church of the
Advent

**January 21, 2:30 pm-
4:30 pm**
African American
Genealogy Meeting

January 26-27
175th Annual Convention
of the Diocese of Florida
in Jacksonville

January 31
Institution Service for
our Rector Fr. Hugh
Chapman

February 14



**St. Michael & All Angels
Episcopal Church**

1405 Melvin Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Telephone: (850) 681-0844

Email us at:
office@stmichaelandallangels.org

We're on the Web:
www.stmichaelandallangels.org

Find us on Facebook!

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@SMAA_Tally



Around the Parish

November and December were very active months at St. Michael. Our parish has been busily serving others throughout the community; welcoming groups to worship with us; learning how to grow in evangelism; and enjoying fellowship with our church family. Here are a few pictures that tell this story.



Sunday, Nov 12 — our youth sing the offertory selection, Give Me Joy in My Heart (Sing Hosanna).



Saturday, Nov 18 — A team of five attended Invite. Welcome. Connect workshop at Camp Weed, led by Mary Foster Parmer.



Saturday, Nov 18 — Our Thanksgiving Food Drive ended with a dedicated team assembling boxes for distribution/pick-up the next day.



Sunday, Nov 19 — We welcomed pledges to Omega Psi Phi fraternity at FAMU. This was the second visit of this group of distinguished young men who attended the Eucharist and stayed for fellowship.



Saturday, Dec 9 — Members of our choir joined with choirs from four downtown churches in performance with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra for Holiday Magic Concert in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall.



Our **Christmas Handbags of Hope** project assembled 12 handbags for gifting to women in need. Each handbag was filled with toiletries, a snack, and a Daily Word, and adorned on the outside with a tag inscribed with words of hope.



Saturday, Dec 16 — Our youth and the young at heart got together to decorate the parish hall, enjoy treats and have fun. For the first time, five Christmas trees were decorated and placed.