



The Archangel's Voice

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church E-Newsletter

JULY/AUGUST, 2018

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From the Rector's Desk



While talking with Father Hugh on Father's Day, I asked him if he would object to my use of excerpts from his weekly bulletin ruminations for this newsletter. As I had hoped, he said, "Not at all" and added that his writings each week are led by the Holy Spirit; the words do not come from him. Following this reasoning, and in line with the sentiments expressed in Lift Every Voice and Sing II: 117, I'm goin' a write what the Spirit says write, and obey the Spirit of the Lord! Following are select excerpts from Fr. Hugh's reflections in our Sunday bulletins.

"Good things are happening at St. Michael.

Come and see!"

Finding the Fire Again

On May 30 we celebrated the Feast of Pentecost—the birthday of the Christian Church. Fr. Hugh noted, *As we read again the story of this awesome day (Acts 2:1-21), we are left in no doubt as to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, for look what it did to a frightened bunch of men and women. The question for 21st century believers is, are we on fire for this Lord who called us into his service? (May 20)*

Saying Cruel Things

I believe that we ought to be collectively outraged at the cruel things that are being publicly said sometimes, and even in the hearing of children. Undoubtedly and unquestionably, there is coarsening of our rhetoric, and tragically some among us feel the more caustic and bombastic we appear, it affords us some sort of advantage over those who do not share our opinions. When, however, this kind of disdain creeps into family relationships, then I know we have crossed a red line. Something tells me that we Christians should begin in our families and serve notice that anti-social behavior will not be countenanced – certain things will not be said, and inappropriate language will not be tolerated. (June 10)

A Disturbing Development

Unless you have been holidaying on Mars (that's coming too), then you would have missed the absolute chaos that descended upon us as a society resulting from a policy decision of the current administration in the White House. Indeed, so mean spirited was this "policy" that unsurprisingly, it received widespread condemnation. What has however proved disturbing was the deliberate attempt by some politicians and pundits as they tried to use the Bible to justify this despicable decision that has resulted in so much pain and suffering on the most vulnerable, in this instance. This called to mind the efforts of those who used a similar ploy to justify slavery and apartheid. My prayer is that as a society we will find it possible to provide shelter and respite to those who genuinely need a new beginning in their lives. (June 24)

Going back to Fr. Hugh's message for the Day of Pentecost and to the question, *are we on fire for this Lord who called us into his service, what can, or should believers everywhere do to rekindle the flame? He gave three suggestions —*

1. *Break the cycle, that pattern of behavior threatening to ensnare us, leading us into a rut.*
2. *Go back to the basics. A fire begins going out the minute you stop rekindling it. Let us take the time to read our bibles. Pray without using words and in the silence, allow God to speak to you.*
3. *Stay connected. It is hard to be a recluse and maintain a healthy enthusiasm for living. Christianity is always personal but never individual. So, while it is true that each of us has our own destiny to fulfil, our God calls us to live together, work together and worship together in community, to the honor and glory of His name. (May 20)*

Surely, believers everywhere would benefit from following these three suggestions. May the power of the Holy Spirit move throughout the world like a magnet!

~Margaret A. Edwards

KEY DATES

July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY



July 5-13

79th General Convention

July 23

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

July 25

SAINT JAMES
THE APOSTLE

August 6

THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST

August 15

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

August 24

SAINT BATHOLOMEW
THE APOSTLE

Upcoming Events



Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 pm
Said Mass

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm
Bible Study

July 4, August 1
First Wednesday Supper Service at The Kearney Center

July 9, August 13
Vestry Meeting

July 13, 6:30 pm
Ultreya at St. Michael

July 24, August 28
Fourth Tuesday Supper Service at Grace Mission

June 10 thru July 15
Summer at Camp Weed
[Click for Dates and Fees](#)

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Around the Parish

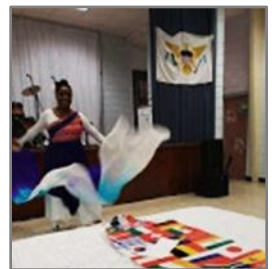
As the seasons changed from Spring to Summer, our parish and individual parishioners had much for which to be thankful. A few of the milestones and events we celebrated are shown below.

May 31 — After 31.5 years with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Junior Warden Charlie Clark retired as an assistant Bureau Chief, with responsibility for agricultural pesticide registration, testing and regulation. At his retirement party held at the DOACS on May 30, Charlie was joined by family, church members and a host of well wishers with whom he has worked over the years. As expected, Charlie has not missed a beat and continues to work just as hard as he did when he held a full-time job!



Soon-to-be retired Charlie surrounded by family and coworkers at his retirement party on May 30.

After taking a break last year, the Episcopal Church Women's fundraising tea returned to rave reviews. Guests attending the **ECW International Pretty Hat Tea** on June 2nd enjoyed a variety of hot and cold teas and tidbits from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and North America. The event got off to a moving start with a liturgical dance to the ECW anthem, *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*. Guests were entertained by dancers from the Women's Bellydance Center who performed Khaleegy style dances. The powerful reggae gospel sounds of Positive Vibes Redeemed closed out a fun-filled afternoon.



Liturgical dancer



Khaleegy style dancers



The gospel sounds of Positive Vibes Redeemed had everyone on their feet.

June 17 — On Father's Day, St. Michael celebrated our fathers with a special blessing and a liturgical dance tribute during the Eucharist. Vestry member Linda Dilworth gave the message, comparing fathers to a bridge over troubled waters. Following the Eucharist, the women of St. Michael treated the men to a feast of grilled meats and a variety of side dishes.



Our outreach continues...



Fourth Tuesday supper service at Grace Mission on June 26



Serving dinner at The Kearney Center on June 6

