



On October 21, 2007, a small green cloth was blessed during the 10:30AM service at St. Peters Episcopal Church in Talladega. Stitched into the fabric is the name Michelle Elizabeth Powell. Her mother, Kate Powell, who flew in from Virginia to witness the ceremony, wants Michelle to be remembered, and felt having her name embedded in the chalice cloth was one way to insure that for her youngest child. Not many people were at the service, and fewer still were there who knew Michelle. Nothing was said at the service to help the small congregation to know her, or understand why her name was on the cloth. I hope this article will help.

Michelle Elizabeth Powell was born January 22, 1975. She died October 12, 2001 at the age of 26. She was a beautiful young girl, tall and slim with long, strawberry blond hair. At the time of her death she was attending Auburn University in a Graduate program in Education. At graduation she would have had a Teaching Certificate and would have begun a career as an elementary school teacher. She loved animals. She loved people. And she was greatly loved.

Dealing with Michelle's death has been especially hard for her mother, Kate. As she puts it, "I have nothing and no one to be angry with...I can't join Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, or fight against drug use, or even work with the police to catch her murderer." Because Michelle, at age 26, went to sleep one night and never woke up. Doctors can provide no explanation or answer to the bereaved people left behind. All her mother can do is struggle to find ways for Michelle to be remembered in a world on which Michelle had not yet had the chance to make her mark.

"This church is where we had her funeral; I believe she would be pleased to always be a part of it." Kate said. Michelle will always be remembered by her family. And now her mother is hoping that a small green cloth will help the people of St. Peters remember her, too.

