

CAKES GALORE!

*A Comedy by
Laurie Allen*

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Cakes Galore!

- 2 -

Story of the Play

Here's a delicious comedy which can be followed by your own dessert sale or cakewalk.

Two older ladies, Helen and Fern, are the force behind the church's program to feed the poor. (Well, actually Helen thinks it is she herself who must do everything to get it done right, with Fern as her helper.) But their outreach program of serving soup and sandwiches may not last much longer because the church just doesn't have the funds. That's a real blow since the church across town puts out a much better spread and more often! Helen decides the only way to continue is to ask for donations from the hungry people who show up. Naturally the few coins she collects won't go far, so she borrows one of the "Will work for food" signs from one of the bums and begs for money on a busy street corner. The pastor is appalled and rushes off to get her back.

Sugar, an ex-stripper who finds the shy pastor attractive, suggests they hold a fundraiser, a '50s-themed bash. Helen is able to get more than a hundred cakes "donated" from the local groceries which they will raffle off. Unfortunately, they hold their event on the same night as the town's high school football's homecoming and the rival church's free complete turkey dinner! When no one shows up, Autumn, a young woman who has been posing as a homeless person, suggests a great alternative to use these "Cakes Galore!"

Synopsis of Scenes

Act I

Scene 1: Late afternoon, cool day in October. Present day.

Scene 2: A week later.

Scene 3: An hour later.

Act II

Scene 1: Two weeks later.

Scene 2: Three hours later.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 5 w, optional extras)

HELEN: Director of the ministry for the poor, a perfectionist, in her 50s.

FERN: A retired woman who is dedicated to helping Helen, in her 60s.

PASTOR CLARK: Pastor of the Mission Baptist Church, early 30s.

ALEX: A high school dropout, late teens.

SUGAR: An ex-stripper, late 20s.

BENNY: A bum, early 30s.

NIKKI: Benny's girlfriend, late 20s.

AUTUMN: A wealthy girl, late teens.

EXTRAS: *(Optional.)* The poor who participate in the free meals offered at the Mission Baptist Church.

SETTING

All the scenes take place in the fellowship hall of the Mission Baptist Church in a West Texas town. At stage left is an outside door that leads into the fellowship hall. Upstage left is a door that leads into the kitchen. To the right of this door is a large open window that looks into the kitchen and out into the room. In front of the window is a large serving table. Downstage right is a piano with hymnals and Bibles stacked on top. A stereo is nearby. Throughout the room are several tables and chairs. As the play opens, the chairs are turned upside down on the tables.

Cakes Galore!

- 4 -

PROPS

Coats for all characters
Plate of hardened brownies
Cakes of all kinds
Salt and pepper shakers
Paper plates, napkins, utensils
Black folder holding reports
Sandwiches on a plate
Decorated donation can
Pen and paper
Pocket change for Alex, Sugar, Benny and Nikki
Pot of soup
"Will work" signs for Benny and Nikki
Purse with digital camera for Autumn
Dishtowel
Wad of cash
Bag of potato chips
Lipstick for Sugar
Broom and dustpan
'50s decorations
Numbers to be taped on chairs
Water jug
Hula hoops
Boxes of cakes
Helen's party sign and money pouch
Bag of apples
Bag of bubble gum
Blue ribbon (award)
Foil-wrapped turkey dinners
Roll of plastic food wrap
Wallet and cell phone for Autumn

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: It is late in the afternoon on a cool day in October. HELEN enters and goes to the piano and removes her coat. She is dressed conservatively. She exits to the kitchen. Through the window, we see her working. After a moment, FERN enters. She is a bit on the heavy side, wears comfortable slacks and tennis shoes. After removing her coat, she goes to the tables and sets the chairs onto the floor.)

HELEN: *(Holding out a plate of brownies.)* Would you look at this! Just look at this!

FERN: *(Goes to the window.)* Yum, brownies! Can I have one?

HELEN: Look at this! Just look at this!

FERN: They look delicious!

HELEN: All uneven! Small, medium, large!

FERN: It's all right, Helen. No one will care.

HELEN: Well, I care! This looks like ... like poop!

FERN: Let's see how they taste. *(Takes a brownie.)*

HELEN: *(Slams the plate down.)* I'm embarrassed to serve these! Completely embarrassed!

FERN: *(Takes a large bite, her mouth full.)* Well, don't blame me. I didn't cut them.

HELEN: Well, whoever did needs to take lessons in cutting equal portions!

FERN: Zola Cox made the brownies.

HELEN: *(Takes a brownie, bites into it, then throws it back onto the plate.)* They're dry! Dry as a rock!

FERN: Well, blame Betty.

HELEN: Betty? I thought you said Zola Cox made these brownies.

FERN: Zola and Betty Crocker.

HELEN: *(Exits the kitchen and enters the room.)* Fern, are we asking too much from the members of this church? *(Sets a plate onto the serving table, then reaches through the window for additional desserts.)*

Cakes Galore!

- 6 -

HELEN: *(Continued.)* Zola could've paid a little more attention to what she was doing! Okay, so she was busy ... ever heard of a kitchen timer? And what's wrong with putting in a little extra effort? How about a little frosting on top? Maybe some sprinkles, too. Why not? Is that too much to ask? Well, I guess so. So, just mix 'em up, throw 'em in the oven and over-cook them. After all, who cares? It's just for the poor!

FERN: *(Takes another brownie.)* They're not that bad. Maybe a little crunchy. But I like them that way.

HELEN: Not that bad? They're not worth serving! I just don't get it. All we ask is that the church members take turns donating a dessert twice a week. Shouldn't they do their best? Why, we do our best. In fact, we do everything around here. I hate to say this, Fern, but it's a thankless job.

FERN: *(Setting a cake onto the table.)* This cake looks nice.

HELEN: Oh, don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining about the work. This ministry for the poor was my idea and I stand behind it one hundred percent.

FERN: Uh, Helen ... Southside had the idea first.

HELEN: First, second, whatever!

FERN: They were already feeding the poor every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, remember?

HELEN: Yes, Fern! But it was my idea to see that the poor didn't go hungry on Tuesday and Thursday, remember?

FERN: You're right, Helen. And you've done a wonderful job. You've practically dedicated yourself to this ministry.

HELEN: Yes, this is true. Since my boys left home, I needed something to fill my time. And what could be more fulfilling than doing the Lord's work? *(Picks up a tray of salt and pepper shakers and takes them to the tables.)*

FERN: *(Setting out paper plates, napkins and utensils.)* I heard that Southside Baptist has been serving the poor a first-class dinner.

HELEN: What do you mean, "a first-class dinner"?

FERN: You know, roast, pork chops, steak

HELEN: What? Southside is serving them steak? I don't believe this! I guess the poor think we're cheap!

End of Freeview

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