

SOUNDS

Volume 40 No. 19

May 9, 2010

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O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR

The other day our Lord's words in Luke 6:39 came to mind: Can the blind lead the blind? He did not think so, and he never had the experience I had while crossing a street. Consider this parable.

One of my usual walking routes takes me through Bethesda, an enjoyable jaunt that often includes a stop in Barnes and Noble. That store sits at the intersection of Bethesda and Woodmont Avenues, a wide expanse of pavement with traffic moving at odd angles. It is not a classic intersection with north-south and east-west divisions, and it is a challenge sometimes to know when it is safe to cross the street, regardless of what the traffic signals indicate.

I was walking on Bethesda Avenue, just by the Capital Crescent trail. At the crosswalk there stood a blind woman, equipped with the long, white cane many blind persons employ. I waited behind her, thinking as I have done before what courage she must have to venture forth with this added burden. I assure you my thoughts were in no way patronizing, but I do not overstate the matter to say I was admiring her as we waited to cross.

Lost in that thought, I realized the traffic signal was making a sound to prompt us to move, and – taking a cue only from her – I followed her into the street. Just then a car rushed through the intersection, coming around the corner on Bethesda. The car was attempting a legal right turn, but we had the right of way. (My grandfather, a lawyer and a gentleman, once observed that the cemetery was filled with people who had the right of way. Let the reader beware.) A third person watching neither the blind woman nor me, but who was attentive to the traffic, did see the car and barked out a warning, which caused us to

stop. The car cruised on its merry way, but not without an imprecation from the bystander. I concurred with his sentiments entirely, and could not have expressed them better myself.

Our Lord's maxim came immediately to mind. I was following a blind person, and although I am not blind, neither was I seeing what I should have seen. I was in no position to save either of us – even though I am usually quite cautious in that intersection. The timely intervention of someone else prevented something worse than unfortunate from possibly taking place. Can the blind lead the blind without danger of ditches and pits – or worse? Well, not in Bethesda.

And not when it comes to matters of the Faith. A parishioner asked me the other day if I could recommend a certain author's works. I vehemently denied that I could, and urged my friend to take up someone else's thought. To this reply the surprised parishioner took exception, offering the accurate observation that the writer in question "sold a lot of books." That is true, but this author is not to be trusted. He is blind to things that matter, and I could not entrust my parishioner to his guidance, lest the parishioner end up in the ditch. Pastoral care requires that honesty, just as surely as shepherds are supposed to lead their flocks in paths of righteousness to still waters.

This diocese will elect a new bishop in the year ahead. Bishops are understood as chief pastors of a diocese. Can the blind guide the blind? Perhaps among the criteria the nominating committee will consider is the eyesight of prospective nominees. Bishops are called to do more than take walks through Bethesda.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INVITES YOU

Please join us Saturday, May 8th at 1pm to celebrate the Napier Street home dedication. Then, carpool with us to Harrell Street for another dedication at 2pm after which you can join us for our 3pm dedication at Hathaway Drive dedication at 3pm!

A home dedication is where members of the community, homeowners, volunteers, donors, supporters, staff, and friends gather to celebrate the Habitat home. This is an opportunity for the Habitat community to come together and see the home as it nears completion, celebrate and wish the new homeowner good luck in their new home.

Bring a chair if you would like guaranteed seating. Construction attire is appropriate so please wear closed toe shoes! For weather related event news, please call (301) 990-0014 x 54.

Napier Street Dedication

3503 Napier Street
Silver Spring, MD 20906
Saturday, May 8th at 1:00 pm

Harrell Street Dedication

3517 Harrell Street
Silver Spring, MD 20906
Saturday, May 8th at 2:00 pm

Hathaway Drive Dedication

12725 Hathaway Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20906
Saturday, May 8th at 3:00 pm

The Dedication Timeline is:

1:00pm - 3503 Napier Street dedication
1.45pm - carpool to 3517 Harrell Street
2:00pm - Harrell Street dedication
2.45pm - carpool to 12725 Hathaway Drive
3:00pm - Hathaway Drive dedication

Feel free to join us at any point along the way. To RSVP contact Molly Martin Pelzer at molly.martin@habitat-mc.org.

DARNESTOWN DAY FESTIVAL

On May 8, St. Nicholas, Darnestown is hosting the first annual Darnestown Day Festival with Seneca Academy. Festivities, which include crafts, moon bounce, face painting and more, begin at 8 a.m. with a Trash-to-Treasures Sale. Other activities begin at noon and run until 4 p.m. Contact Terri Murphy at ChristianFormation@saintnicks.com for further information.

WALK UNAFRAID



“Dark as my path may seem to others, I carry a magic light in my heart. Faith, the spiritual strong searchlight, illumines the way, and although sinister doubts lurk in the shadow, I walk unafraid toward the enchanted wood where the foliage is always green, where joy abides ... in the presence of the Lord.”

- Helen Keller

CALLING ALL LAGER LOVERS - TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

If you have not already staked your claim to a seat at the Belgian Beer Tasting and Dinner, now is the time! The dinner will be **this Saturday, 5/15**, at Wayne & Carol Jarvis's home and starts at 7:30 pm. If we hear from you by Monday at 5 pm at 301-365-2055, we will try to keep a space for you.



CHURCH PICNIC & CARNIVAL

WSF is looking for some volunteers to help with this year's annual Church picnic. We are planning a Carnival theme with moon bounce, face painting, games, and more. It will be fun for the whole family, and we need your help to make it happen.

If you would like to help in the planning, please contact Karen Schneider at 301-963-3585 or karen.schneider5@verizon.net. We will have a planning meeting in early May.

This is a great way to have fun, meet people and help the St. Francis community. Please come join us!

COULD YOU USE A 'PARENT'S NIGHT OUT'?

Parents: are you interested in a parents' night out? WSF is thinking about holding a 'Parents' Night Out' during which children can be dropped off in St. Francis hall for dinner, games, and crafts. Parents can then head out to dinner for a little social time - maybe even with other St. Francis parents!

We are trying to gauge interest to see if this is something we should offer. If this is something you would like to do (or to help with), please let me know at karen.schneider5@verizon.net.

SAVVY SENIORS MAY LUNCHEON—ROOTS THURSDAY, MAY 20TH, 12:00 NOON

No, we won't be eating roots, we'll be learning about them! Our program will feature a genealogist from the Montgomery County Historical Society and should be very interesting. Details will follow.

We will have another pot-luck luncheon since they have been so well received. As usual, beverages and rolls will be included in your \$5.00 donation. Wine will be available for an extra charge. We will meet in St. Francis Hall at 12 noon

The "Food Formula" will be; A-H...please bring dessert, J-R...please bring a main dish, S-Z...please bring a salad with protein. All these contributions should serve 6-8 people.

Please make reservations by calling Christine (301-365-2055) and telling her what you will bring by Tuesday, May 18th.



SEMINAR ON PREVENTING FALLS

A seminar on fall prevention with Rich Dixon, a physical therapist, is set for **1 pm on May 13th in Redeemer, Bethesda's parish hall.** For those over 60 accidental falls can lead to more serious illness, disability and, even, death.

Dixon will present safety tips and information on home assessment, confidence building, decreasing risk factors and assessing ambulatory equipment. This seminar is of value to those 60 and over and anyone with a family member/friend over 60.

Church of the Redeemer Bethesda is located at 6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard.. Contact the church at 301/229-3770 with any questions.

MUSIC AT EVENTIDE: ASCENSION DAY COMPLINE

Our current *Book of Common Prayer* provides a wealth of liturgies for use in the Episcopal Church. Two such orders come from the daily monastic evening “offices” (think “liturgies”) of the early Christian church and still are practiced today.

The first is *Vespers*, somewhat clumsily called *An Order of Worship for the Evening* in our BCP, found on page 108. The second is *An Order for Compline* – or simply, *Compline* (pronounced *KOM-plin*) – on page 127. It was from these two offices that Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) beautifully distilled and crafted our most Anglican of liturgies, *Evening Prayer* (p.61), or *Evensong* as it has come to be known when sung. He understood the structural value of these offices and knew a service of practical use needed for the worship life of the newly formed Church of England could be patterned effectively after these ancient models.



You may recall that we followed the order of *Evensong* for All Saints’ last November, that of *Vespers* in March, and we will follow the order for *Compline* on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 13th at 8:00 pm.

The Saint Francis Choir will lead us with seasonal music in the parish church as we commemorate the ascension of Christ into heaven. A reception follows in the undercroft. Please come and join us for this *Music at Eventide* event.

Gary Davison, O-C

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FROM SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Summer Casework Internships – College students interested in a social services agency can gain invaluable experience this summer working with program participants as they take next steps toward life changing goals.

Summer volunteers – Opportunities to fill in when regular volunteers are on vacation. Great way for high school and college students to fulfill community service hours.

Next Step Experience –learn how Samaritan Ministry changes people’s lives at a Next Step Experience on Tuesday, May 25 at 1:15 pm at 1516 Hamilton St, NW, D.C. 20011.

Volunteer – Use your talents as a handy person, decorator, purchasing agent, Web site designer, graphic designer or in other unique ways.

Wish List –Please donate: men’s deodorant, hand and body lotion, \$5-\$25 grocery store gift cards.

For more information on any of these opportunities, contact Dianne Lewis at dlewis@samaritanministry.org or 202-722-2280, ext. 319 or you can visit www.samaritanministry.org.

UPDATE ON THE BISHOP SEARCH

The Standing Committee has called for a special convention to elect the 9th Bishop of Washington for June 2011. To that end, a committee has been appointed to present nominees for consideration. The committee’s membership is posted in the lobby of the parish house, and can be found on the diocesan website: www.edow.org. in the article “Bishop Search Under Way.”

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

For more information, please visit our website at www.stfrancispotomac.org

SUNDAY, MAY 9

HUNGER SUNDAY

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School and Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Morning Prayer

TUESDAY, MAY 11

10:30 am Grounds Committee Meeting
5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft
7:30 pm Communications Committee

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study

THURSDAY, MAY 13

ASCENSION DAY

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 5/23/10
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:30 pm St Francis Choir
8:00 pm Complaine Service

FRIDAY, MAY 14

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY, MAY 15

7:30 pm Belgian Beer Tasting & Dinner Party at the home of Wayne & Carol Jarvis

SUNDAY, MAY 16

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Morning Prayer
Sunday School and Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Holy Eucharist

The Scripture appointed for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

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