

SOUNDS

of

Volume 40 No. 20

May 16, 2010

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O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR

Present-day technology has robbed us of one of the pleasures of the past. There was nothing quite as pleasing as listening to a baseball game crackling through the atmosphere on a summer's night. The medium of the spoken word – something with biblical sanction (read the Prophets) – engages the mind in a way television never can. The youth of today do not understand this, nor do they take pleasure in “tuning in” (if that image is even still used) a distant signal.

At the same time, broadcasting has changed its personnel, not just its technology. It is increasingly rare for an announcer to stay with a single franchise for most of his career. These “voices of summer” used to form bonds with the fans that were familial in their intensity. Fans tuned in not just to hear the game, but to hear that announcer's voice with its reassuring, encouraging attributes. We counted on these voices to be there not just for their teams, but for us.

Ernie Harwell was just such a voice. For 42 seasons Harwell was the Voice of the Detroit Tigers, but he was more than that to the game of baseball and the state of Michigan. Over 11,000 admirers filed past his coffin which had been placed in Comerica Park, the baseball home of the Tigers.

While I cannot claim any loyalty to the Tigers (as can some in the church office), I can and do claim loyalty to Ernie Harwell, and no small amount of admiration. A native of Georgia, he never lost the soft traces of his native state. In an industry saturated with ego, he remained a gentleman in the almost forgotten sense of the word. His election to the Baseball Hall of Fame enhanced that collection of talent.

WJR is a powerful radio station in Detroit, what the industry calls a “blow torch”. Its signal carried over most of the eastern half of the country. That is how I could hear Harwell long before the days of satellite radio and the internet made it possible to hear his work. (I listen

now to Vin Scully whenever I can, savoring every inning.)

By this point a reader might be tempted to find this only an exercise in nostalgia, or perhaps part of the *faux* grief that marks the passing of a celebrity. Not this time, however: When the story of Ernie Harwell is written, it is essentially the story of a faithful and devout Christian gentleman, and if that dimension is not included, the story is incomplete. Indeed, it is that very dimension which made it possible to write about him in this space. The *Detroit Free Press* covered this aspect of Harwell's life not as a “side bar”, as the term is in journalism, but as a crucial insight in the man, prompting a staff writer to note: “To Harwell, belief in baseball and Jesus Christ were both core parts of his identity, each reinforcing the idea of eternal hope.”

Mitch Albom, the celebrated Detroit columnist, put it this way: *There is, in the story of any good man's passing, the laundry list of achievements that should be mentioned, the fact that Harwell likely was the first baseball announcer to be traded for a player (in 1948), that he called games for the Dodgers, Giants, Orioles and Tigers, or that he missed just two broadcasts in 55 years behind the mike — one because he was being inducted into a hall of fame He was there for Jackie Robinson's career as well as Cecil Fielder's, that he did 42 years in Detroit, that the press box in Comerica Park is now named in his honor, that he wrote hundreds of songs and penned a famous baseball poem, or that he felt unsatisfied by his path in the 1960s, attended a Billy Graham speech in Florida one night and gave his life, as he told me, “to the Lord,” remaining a devout Christian and living quietly by those precepts for the rest of his days (Detroit Free Press, May 5, 2010). Rest in peace, Ernie. We'll see you tomorrow.*

THE HOUSE TOUR NEEDS HOUSES!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The House Selection Committee is looking for two more houses for the House Tour along the River Road corridor. As you know, the homes are central to the draw of the PCHT, so this is extremely important.

The House Tour will be on October 2nd and 3rd. If you have any ideas about possible homes, please contact Carol Jarvis at 301-299-4296.

CHURCH PICNIC & CARNIVAL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY, 6/6

Moon bounces, face painting, games, and more all await you on **Sunday, June 6th**, after the 10 am service here at St. Francis! It will be fun for the whole family, so please mark your calendar now for that date!

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

If you would like to help in the planning, please contact Karen Schneider at 301-963-3585 or karen.schneider5@verizon.net. If you read this in time, you can also just come to the planning meeting at 7pm in the library on Thursday, May 13th.

BOOK CLUB MEETS THURSDAY, 5/27

Join us to discuss *Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Earle Stegner. From the back cover of the book: "Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage."

YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 23RD - PENTECOST

⇒ **Last day of Sunday School classes**

⇒ **9:00 am Morning Prayer**

Sunday School Attendance Awards

Grades 1 - 12 - Sit with your class

⇒ **Pre-school classes**

Regular class from 9:00 to 11:10

⇒ **Grades 1 - 12**

Regular class time after the service

⇒ **11:15 am Holy Eucharist**



SAVVY SENIORS MAY MEETING

THIS THURSDAY, MAY 20, 12 NOON

TO RSVP: Call Christine at 301-365-2055, by Tuesday, May 18th.

Do you want to discover who in your family was of some importance, who was an outlaw, who was a hero? Then be sure to come have lunch and hear Lorraine Minor, a speaker and teacher from the Montgomery County Historical Society. Her presentation is entitled "Genealogy: What's It All About?"

Lunch will be a Pot-Luck...this has proven to be popular as cooking skills are not a prerequisite! The "Food Formula" is as follows; A-H ---Dessert, J-R---Main Dish S-Z---Salad with protein. Please prepare your dish to serve 6-8 people. As usual, beverages and bread/rolls will be included in your \$5.00 donation. Wine will be available for an extra cost.

PLEASE call and make your reservation with Christine and let her know what you are bringing. This helps us in the planning. We sure don't want too many desserts!!

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, MAY 16

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

TUESDAY, MAY 18

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft
7:30 pm Vestry Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

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

THURSDAY, MAY 20

12:00 noon ROOTS - Seniors' Potluck Lunch
5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 5/30/10
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
6:30 pm Vespers
7:30 pm St. Francis Choir

FRIDAY, MAY 21

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, MAY 23

YOUTH SUNDAY

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

The Scripture appointed for the Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26

Periodical postage paid
At Rockville, MD 20850

SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS (USPS 561-890)

is published weekly (except the last week in December) and biweekly in July and August by St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854; telephone (301) 365-2055.

WEB ADDRESS: www.stfrancispotomac.org.

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Periodical postage paid at Rockville, MD 20850.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sounds of St. Francis, 10033 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854