

COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

HUNGER SUNDAY

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Adult Education
10:00am Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

6:00 pm Youth Bible Study
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft
7:30 Vestry Meeting—Library

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
1:00 pm Youth Kickball

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

11:00 am Seniors Canal Cruise and Luncheon
5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 6/28

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
4-7 pm Sunday School Cookout+

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Youth Mission leaves for Philadelphia

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Adult Education
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

The Scripture appointed for the Second Sunday after Pentecost:

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13, Psalm 20 or Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14;
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17, Mark 4:26-34

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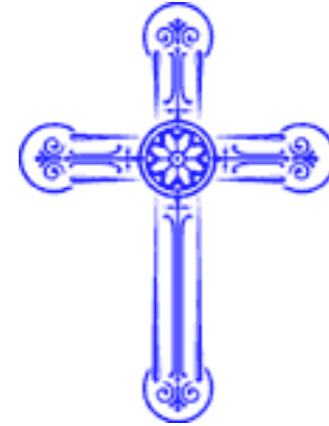
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Volume 39 No. 24

June 14, 2009



Keep, O Lord, we beseech thee, thy household the Church in thy steadfast faith and love, that by the help of thy grace we may proclaim thy truth with boldness, and minister thy justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR

The season of aestivation is upon us, and so a few timely words and random thoughts as we move into the warm months.

For the balance of the summer, the 10:00 service will be Holy Eucharist, Rite II. This change from our usual pattern will allow us to utilize some of the musical settings we cannot otherwise use in Rite I. It also refreshes our appreciation of Anglican liturgies. I intend to be on the lookout for some other variations simply to provide a little diversity and contrast. Such variations are hardly revolutionary, and in due time we will return to our customary patterns of worship. The Sunday 8:00 and Wednesday 10:00 services will continue unaltered. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. (If you attend those services, you already know that.)

Sundays at 9:00 we will offer an adult education short course. This year's focus will be an Anglican view of the sacraments. The series will begin June 14 and continue through July 26. The classes are held in the Kincaid Library between the 8:00 and 10:00 services, and offered as "stand alone" classes for those whose travel prevents attendance at every session.

One of the benefits of the summertime is the opportunity to worship in other settings. I am not hesitant to remind you that our bounden duty and service remains to worship God every week in the Church, not just on the Sundays when it suits us or we happen to be in town. Especially in a congregation like this one, with an active Sunday school program, there is a temptation to equate church attendance with school year attendance. Simply put, that is not faithful discipleship, period. It is worth remembering that younger children will never learn "church manners" if they

don't have the opportunity to practice them, so don't keep the children out of church.

I always encourage parishioners to worship in local churches when they are away on vacation. Doing so brings us into contact with other church practices, some of which might be healthfully incorporated into our parish life. If you travel abroad, such worship serves as a reminder of the breadth of the Anglican Communion in its local constituent members. Vacation worship can also renew your appreciation of the good things going on here, deepening one's appreciation of St Francis. That is not a reason to boast, but it is a reason to give thanks. For years I have appreciated the practice of having bulletins from other churches brought back, and I pass them on to the staff when there is something I think they should see or might enjoy. Please keep that custom alive this year.

It is also timely to remind one and all of the need to keep pledges current. The parish has to pay its bills just as any financial operation does. I have not to date expressed my gratitude, and that of the Vestry, for the very faithful response of parishioners even in the recent economic climate. A prudent budget has been carefully watched, and while there are not blue birds chirping outside the Treasurer's office, neither are the vultures roosting there. Most churches have to remind parishioners to keep their pledges up to date, and we are no exception. The best way to do that is to be here to return your own pledge in person, but, failing that, the mail generally works. We appreciate your thoughtfulness on this very much.



LISTEN UP CONTINUED

(Please understand that is NOT a statement in support of unnecessary alterations to theologically sound historic texts or well-crafted music, just to suit our so-called modern sensibilities, engine of the compromising influences of political correctness.) And can there ever be enough worthy music to sing the infinite praises of our Creator? I think not!

Mr Shand keenly observed a few weeks ago in his sermon that God has prepared and wants better things for *those who love him* (my emphasis) than they can desire (or imagine, I suspect) for themselves. He was taking the Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter as his text (BCP, p.174), a prayer that has appeared in every Book of Common Prayer since the first one in 1549. For reasons I am unable to articulate, this observation created a strong resonance within me. It moved me. It humbled me. It encouraged me. And as I considered it further, it dawned on me that this IS what we call the better part of our nature. When we know or have something good and worthy, and we truly want to share it with others for their betterment, is that not a "goodly" (godly) desire? It is a noble gesture, no doubt, and one for which to strive always. This desire brought to action is at the heart of good teaching, parenting, and -- in the truest sense -- of loving. This is where, being created in the image of God, we finally begin to "get it." But we must avail ourselves of it, even if we don't fully understand it.

And so, this I offer as a final preamble and "stance," if you will, to the series upon which we will embark this summer, which in itself will inform an Adult Christian Education series this coming fall. I feel deeply the connection to those who have gone before and to

those yet with a charge to keep. We will see that there have been many who faced obstacles in preparing and working to achieve things better than we could want or imagine. I hope you will avail yourself of the unimaginable riches awaiting us, those mysterious beauties, which, God willing, help guide us to that closer presence with the same. My next installment will look at the state of church music in the Renaissance leading up to the Reformation and what the impact of that monumental event made on sacred music, especially Anglican liturgical music. The major players include none other than King Henry VIII, Thomas Cranmer, Henry's daughter, Elizabeth, Thomas Tallis, and his student, William Byrd.

Stay tuned.... Gary Davison, O-C

OUTREACH CORNER

MORE GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

Here are a few more memorable gift ideas which honor your celebratory occasion and help improve the lives of those in need.

- <http://www.scaw.org>; (Sleeping Children Around the World) \$35 provides bedding, clothing, school supplies, and other necessities to children of any race and/or religion who will benefit the most. Typically they are located in underdeveloped and developing countries.
- <http://www.mercycorps.org>; provides seeds, farming tools, and technical advice for two impoverished families in Uganda.
- <http://malariaanomore.org>; \$10 will buy one insecticide-treated mosquito net, which will protect at least one child from malaria for up to 5 years.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

I have been asked to write a short article for *Sounds* about my goals for the Vestry this year. I would like to share several ideas with you. I think that at this point in the life of St. Francis it is important to focus on what in my mind are two priorities: worship and communication.

Worship is my number one reason for coming to St. Francis. While we have a much smaller clergy staff now than we have had in my 22 years here, we are fortunate to have priests who focus on Bible based preaching and do not get mired down in the politics of the Church. We also have Gary Davison and a fine music program, as well as an outstanding education and youth ministry. It is the duty of the Vestry to support the foundations of meaningful worship.

The Vestry should also engage in two-way communication with fellow parishioners and potential members to encourage and grow our worshipful environment. Whenever I am asked about St. Francis, I always talk about the strengths and fruits of our worship. The Vestry's work in all areas of their concern aims toward encouraging fellowship and giving parishioners the opportunity to answer to God's calling within the context of their lives. We need to increase the conversation about the efforts with the St. Francis family and wider community.

At the roundtable discussions during this past Annual Meeting parishioners submitted questions and observations on index cards for further contemplation by the Vestry. One of the results of this exercise is that the Vestry has returned to managing portfolios with the idea that the Vestry member is not necessarily a committee chair but is a liaison between the Vestry, the Committee and the

JOY AND CONCERN

Please join us in prayer for Helen Psacharopoulos, mother of Anthony Psacharopoulos, who died on May 19, 2009 and for Polly Webster who is recovering from recent hip surgery.

parish. Each member will make a monthly report and will communicate with the entire parish on a regular, rotating basis through articles in *Sounds*. I encourage each of you to become involved in a new area and to introduce neighbors and friends to our welcoming spirit.

A positive outcome of this communication focus could be an increase in membership through fellowship and involvement. We all need to be better at extending our invitation to people in our circles and then encouraging them to grow their level of involvement. We have the tools to accomplish this through our various opportunities for worship, outstanding outreach programs, educational offerings, fellowship and stewardship.

I view service as the Senior Warden as a privilege. It is an opportunity to give my time in any way that will help St. Francis to remain strong and grow. It is my vision that the individual members of the Vestry and parishioners alike will be leaders in furthering our efforts. Being active helps to nurture people in their faith and it supports them in their growing understanding of their love of God. It is my hope that with our Vestry focused on communication we can make St. Francis open and friendly to everyone, provide programs that will enable people to grow in their personal awareness and understanding of Jesus Christ, and continue to provide valuable outreach programs throughout our community and worldwide. — Ellen Tozer



POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR

The invitations to become a Patron (\$150) or Friend (\$75) of the 54th Potomac Country House Tour have been sent. If you have not received yours and would like to contribute to the success of the House Tour and the Outreach programs of St. Francis in this way please call the church office and we will happily send you the information.

Patrons receive two complimentary tickets to the tour and an invitation to the reception honoring the homeowners.

Thank you to those who have already donated. The people and programs we support are grateful.

SOUNDS SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER

Sounds will be published bi-weekly throughout the summer. For your convenience, the schedule and deadline dates are shown below.

<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>MAILING DATE</u>	<u>DEADLINE 5PM</u>
7/05/09	6/30/09	6/25/09
7/19/09	7/14/09	7/09/09
8/02/09	7/28/09	7/23/09
8/16/09	8/11/09	8/06/09
8/30/09	8/25/09	8/20/09

POSTAGE STAMP DONATIONS

Please consider collecting used stamps for patients at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital. The stamps allow 72 psychiatric patients the chance to develop job skills through sorting, filing, appraising and sales. Please cut stamps off envelopes leaving a ¼ inch border and mail to the United Church Stamps for a Living Business, 1920 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. Contact 202/645-4953 with questions.

LISTEN UP!

Not long ago, an invitation came my way to consider a job opening at a prominent Episcopal church in the Southwest. I'll admit I was intrigued and somewhat flattered. It is a large urban parish with deep pockets, a long history of refined music-making, a remarkable choir of some renown, a wonderful organ, a lovely facility (including a new state-of-the-art music suite), and is situated in a part of this country that is my boyhood home, for which I sometimes long.

We talked. Things looked promising. And then appeared the rub, as Mr Shakespeare once put it. They were emphatically *not* interested in a music director that composed as part of his job. After I picked my jaw up off the floor and we bade each other farewell, I began to mull over just why that was unacceptable.... for me anyway. It also gave me pause to review and once again appreciate my current situation, which has been so supportive of that part of my calling.

Now the need for good and effective "program" is not in question here and that, in fact, is my primary task at Potomac Parish, happily. Without that, after all, what is the use of music anyway? In addition, I acknowledge most musicians are not cut out for composing, just as being a doctor does not necessarily a surgeon make. Still, the Western Christian church is responsible for the vast majority of our beautiful choral treasury and she should continue to bear responsibility not only for its preservation and use, but also for its expansion through those capable of doing so. A parish such as the one to which I refer is poised to do just that, especially given their bountiful resources. We do not live in a vacuum, after all, nor are we a museum, contrary to the judgment of some.