

COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 7/05
7:30 pm Book Club—Youth Room, please note the time change

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

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

The Scripture appointed for the Third Sunday after Pentecost:

1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49, Psalm 9:9-20 *or* 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16, Psalm 133 *or* Job 38:1-11, Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

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SOUNDS

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June 21, 2009

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*O Lord, we beseech thee, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name, for thou never failest to help and govern those whom thou hast set upon the sure foundation of thy loving kindness; 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 beautiful countryside due south of Annapolis is the heart of Southern Maryland. The "S" is properly capitalized in that descriptive name and refers to traits not simply geographical, but cultural and social as well. The peninsula between the Patuxent River to the west and the Chesapeake Bay on the east is a genuine "land of pleasant living." Please remember, this is not the Eastern Shore, but the rolling hills of Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties.

A friend of mine serves as rector of a parish established in 1692. He has served this cure for more than 35 years and knows the region well. He is also a wise and good priest and pastor. When I moved to Southern Maryland he helped me understand the mores of what was then a more distinctive region that perhaps it is now with the rapid (and lamentable) suburban sprawl that has pushed out from Washington and even Baltimore.

Once we were discussing another parish in the Diocese of Maryland and he told me about their origins. This parish (not served by either of us) had begun as a refuge for dissidents from another long-established parish. Some church issue, now lost in the mists of memory, had caused a group to start "their own" church. My friend said that lo, these many years later, the people of that church were still angry, but no one was quite sure what the issue was. From this he concluded that if a congregation begins in anger it may never outgrow it.

Such unfortunate memory is not confined to Southern Maryland, then or now.. It is surely true in many ethnic and political feuds. Ancient enemies renew their dislike of one another without remembering what set them at

enmity in the first place. Like the feud between the Hatfield clan and the McCoy clan, the original animosity was lost, but the hatred wore on.

These thoughts came to mind the other day when I read a short essay by the distinguished theologian Alister McGrath. Speaking of theological feuds, often less interesting than Hatfield-McCoy matters but sometimes no less bloody, Professor McGrath wrote that "Purely oppositional movements tend to find themselves in difficulties once their point of reference is removed." He went on to point to the earliest Christians. They did not "affirm the Resurrection of Christ *against* anyone" (emphasis mine); rather, "belief in the Resurrection was seen as a positive option, 'good news' for all humanity." Indeed.

Professor McGrath's thoughts seem timely as yet another General Convention slouches its way toward not Bethlehem but Anaheim. It is easy to define who the Church is and ought to be over and against the misbegotten pronouncements of the Presiding Bishop and many of her cohorts in power, but that will not serve to edify over the long haul. Far more promising is faithful attention to sound theology, defined by Tradition and articulated with grace, power, and no small amount of magnanimity. This will prove to be a more faithful response not only to the vexations of the present hour, but also to the vocation of the Church to welcome others into the household of the faithful. We have more good news to proclaim than we have time to waste in complaint and despair, even though there is reason enough for both of those commodities. Be of good cheer even when things tend to get us down.



ADULT EDUCATION—SUMMER TERM

Remember to join the Rector's Summer Term in adult education. We meet in the Kincaid Library between the 8:00 and 10:00 services. Each week is a "stand alone" session, united under the general theme of an Anglican view of sacraments. The series runs through July 26th.

LAST CHANCE BOOK CLUB TIL SEPTEMBER

"I can't remember the last time I discovered a novel as smart and delightful as this one, a world so vivid ... with characters so utterly wonderful that I kept forgetting they weren't my actual friends and neighbors. Treat yourself to this book please — I can't recommend it highly enough."—Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love*

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows is the choice for our next gathering on **June 25 at 7:30**. Please note the change of time.

We will not meet during the summer, but for those eager to begin on Summer Reading, we have chosen the 'entertaining and educational' book, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker by Stacy A. Cordery.

Please contact Mardy O'Neil at 301-340-6550 for more information.

SOUNDS SUMMER SCHEDULE—2009

| ISSUE DATE | MAILING DATE | DEADLINE 5PM |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 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 |

JOY AND CONCERN

Congratulations to proud grandparents, Joel & Cindy Bassett, and parents, Nicole Bassett and Rusty James, on the birth of Jasper Rae James, born June 1, 2009.

Please join us in prayer for Carol Ford Franklin of Seattle, WA., sister of Jim Ford, who died.



POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR

The House Tour is looking for volunteers to help both at the Church and at the tour homes during the weekend of Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th. There are many opportunities available for anyone in the St. Francis family and the Potomac community at large to participate in House Tour. Even a little of your time will help to make 2009 the best year to date for this traditional and important event. If you would like to participate, please call Ann Seymour at 301-452-6699 to discuss which opportunity best suits your talents. Everyone is welcome.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Families in the Transitional Housing Corporation's (THC) three Partner Arms programs will be taking part in many summer activities of the Youth Enrichment Program. THC needs volunteers to help facilitate the Garden Club, the Reading Club, the YEP Arts Program activities and monthly family outings. Each volunteer must fill out an application and clear a background check to participate. To sign up, visit www.thcdc.org or contact Margaret Thaxton at mthaxton@thcdc.org or 202/291-5535.