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Volume 40 No. 26

June 27, 2010

Almighty God, look down upon the Class of 2010 and give us your grace. We remember gratefully the many and often unexpected blessings you bestowed upon us at St. Andrew's, through our teachers, peers, and families. We thank you for the memories, friendships, and laughter through these years as you gave us time to learn and grow, preparing us for a life of joy in service. We thank you also for the stumbles that brought us closer together, and for the many who comforted us and lifted us up. As we go on to face new challenges, give us the courage to meet them with the confidence that only your constant love can provide. Give us your strength to pass safely through all of our trials, and to see your power in them day by day. Bless our endeavors, dreams, friendships, and studies in the years to come. Even as we leave the familiar for the foreign, be with us in all things, that we may walk in your way for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Lauren Heywood

Class of 2010

St. Andrew's Episcopal School

FROM THE RECTOR

There is a little-noticed scene in St Matthew's account of our Lord's Passion that has always intrigued me. It is intended by those involved as the final curtain in the drama that has played out since the betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion of our Lord. Pilate is approached by the Jewish leaders who demand that the tomb of Jesus be sealed, "Otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." (Matthew 27:62-65). "So, they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone." End of story.

That tortured, brilliant poet, Christopher Smart, could scarcely conceal his contempt for those who colluded to put an end to Jesus. In the poem he authored that we sing as Hymn 212 he wrote: "His enemies had sealed the stone as Pilate gave them leave/lest dead and friendless and alone he should their skill deceive." Smart's sarcasm is triumphant and exultant.

The Christian knows there is one more scene (at least) to the story, and that scene leads not to the successful defeat of Jesus by religion and state combined, but to the scene of discovery in a garden early on the morning of the first day of the week. And that scene, while offering the true conclusion and climax of the Gospel accounts, is not the end of the story. To the contrary, the Resurrection is not the end of the story, but the true beginning. Just as the Garden of Eden is in many, many ways the beginning of the story, so the garden of Resurrection represents the beginning of God's re-creation, and the transformation of history.

I recall sitting in class in seminary when it dawned on me that the entirety of the New Testament was written in the light of the

Resurrection. We were considering what Bible scholars like to call "post resurrection appearances", with the specific topic being whether a particular Biblical scene (in point of fact, the Transfiguration) might have been placed by editorial license as a prelude to the Crucifixion rather than as an appearance after the event itself. There are legitimate reasons for such speculation, although ultimately they are not persuasive. But the more important insight is the one that came to me that day, namely that everything in the New Testament was written after Jesus' Resurrection.

That this seems self-evident by the chronology of things is a point easily admitted, but it is not *the* point. Of greater significance is that the writing of the New Testament is a direct consequence of the fact that our Lord has been raised from the dead. There is no deception here, no "cleverly devised myths", as St Peter wrote (II Peter 1:16), but rather the testimony of "eyewitnesses of his [Christ's] majesty." We live in a time when truth is said to be relative at best, and thus "pluriform", to use the unfortunate thinking of a past Presiding Bishop, that one can hardly believe anything. You have your truth, and I have mine, and ne'er the twain shall meet - but who cares? That is the sprit of the age, but it is not the spirit of faith, nor is such an attitude the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

To the contrary, keep in mind the words of St Paul to the Corinthians, a congregation which knew a bit about power and wisdom: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile....But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died." (I Corinthians 15:19-20) The truth suggests that far from defeated, even though left "dead and friendless and alone", the Risen Christ is indeed the beginning of the story. And the truth is, his story is ours as heirs through hope.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES



St. Francis offers our congratulations to the members of the Classes of 2010 on their graduations from high schools, colleges, and graduate schools across the U.S. and beyond.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Bryan Crutchfield, Winston Churchill High School, (Georgetown University); **Brian McNeilly**, Poolesville High School, (American University); **Lauren Heywood**, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, (Dartmouth College); **Matt Lynch**, Walt Whitman High School, (Colby College); **Christine Ertel**, Thomas S. Wootton High School, (James Madison University); **Eric Peters**, Winston Churchill High School, (Miami University in Oxford, Ohio); **Juliana Lofgren**, Quince Orchard High School, (University of Vermont); **Molly Kiniry**, Winston Churchill High School, (Boston University); **Ashley Austin**, Winston Churchill High School, (Northwestern University); **Tanaquil Marquez**, Winston Churchill High School, (Case Western Reserve University); **Cody William Young**, Winston Churchill High School; **Kyle Wilson**, Sidwell Friends, (University of Michigan); **David Sturgeon**, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); **Lindsay Schwartz**, grandchild of Roxanne and George Stosur, (Wheaton College, Norton, MA.); **Stephen Kindermann**, Richard Montgomery High School, (University of Michigan) and **Thomas Graham**, Cardinal Gibbons High School, Raleigh NC, (North Carolina State University), grandchildren of Selby and Frank Graham.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Victoria North, Columbia University, will continue her pre-med studies next year at Columbia); **Amy Plamondon**, Vanderbilt University; **Sondra Polan**, Indiana University; **Amy Bachman**, Wake Forest University, will be working as an Americorps Vista Volunteer at Johns Hopkins University; **William M. Lowe**, James Madison University.

POST GRADUATES

Hilary North Scheler receives her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Georgetown University in September and will continue her post-doctoral studies at the medical school of Northwestern University. **Amanda Stephenson**, wife of Benedict Semmes and daughter-in-law of Guy & Dana, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh medical school and has started her Residency at Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. **Timothy Oleson** received his Ph.D. in geochemistry from the University of Wisconsin. **Laura Graham**, MS Chemical Engineering, Cornell University, will work at the Kraft Foods Laboratory in Tarrytown NY.

VESTRY NOTES

The following items are reported from the Vestry meeting of June 15, 2010:

- The Rector indicated that minutes of the meetings will be posted on the website after they are approved by the Vestry.
- Gary Bachman expressed concern that the level of pledge receipts is not keeping pace with prior years' pledges, and reiterated the hope that parishioners will keep their pledges current during the summer months.
- Reports were received from the task forces on growth and financial planning.
- The Rector asked that the policies governing funerals be clarified, and requested the establishment of certain fees based on those charged for weddings.
- The Vestry expressed its appreciation for the successful parish picnic earlier in June.

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

It is a great kindness to the Vestry if members will keep their pledges current during the summer. Bear in mind that expenses continue on a regular business cycle, and we need to be able to operate with that same efficiency. Please keep your pledge contributions up to date during the summer.

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

MONDAY, JUNE 28

Mission trip members leave for New Orleans

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

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

FRIDAY, JULY 2

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Mission Trip members return

SUNDAY, JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

MONDAY, JULY 5

Office closed in observance of
Independence Day

The Scripture appointed for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 *or* 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Psalm 16,
Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

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