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Volume 39 No. 26

June 28, 2009



*Almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

For more information, please visit our website at [www.stfrancispotomac.org](http://www.stfrancispotomac.org)

### SUNDAY, JUNE 28

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Adult Education  
10:00am Holy Eucharist  
Youth Mission Returns

### TUESDAY, JUNE 30

6:00 pm Youth Bible School  
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

10:00 am Holy Eucharist  
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study  
1:00 pm Jr. Hi Mall Hunt

### THURSDAY, JULY 2

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 7/09  
7:00 pm Sr. Hi Video Hunt

### FRIDAY, JULY 3

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

### SUNDAY, JULY 5

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



The Scripture appointed for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:  
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27, Psalm 130 or Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24,  
Lamentations 3:21-33 or Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15, Mark 5:21-43

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## FROM THE RECTOR

We are one year into the agreement with St Andrew's Episcopal School, and it seemed an appropriate time for a brief update. The thesis offered here is simple: This merger has been a blessing to both institutions.

That observation suggests yet one more word of thanks to those who worked to bring about the original agreement. And the person at the center of this story is the capable and dedicated Head of School at St Andrew's, Robert Kosasky. It was Robert who first saw the possibility to make this a reality. Timing is always an essential element in almost all human endeavors, and Robert was not discouraged by the treacherous climate of recent months. Many will be aware that independent schools had been thinking in terms of what was sustainable and viable long before the stock market's decline. I think Robert understood something I have tried to remember in church leadership, namely that to program only to maintain the *status quo* is ultimately to land in obsolescence. That won't do for churches or schools any more than it will do in other business ventures. So, it was Robert who began to raise this possibility, and the leadership of both this parish and St Andrew's began to take a hard, critical look at his idea. It took months to sort out, but in the end a merger eventuated.

Prentiss Feagles, in office then as Senior Warden, drew the familiar distinction between the major things and what he called "the weeds". The truth is, life is lived just there, in the weeds, when the lawyers, wardens, board chairs, and financial gurus have gone on their way. That means in our case the people, especially the professional staffs, of both institutions. Like any marriage, it has taken some

adjustment. The spirit of cooperation has prevailed, and the common resolve to make this work has provided the energy.

From the school's part, this should be said: The recently completed academic year was a good one. More and more this institution is being seen as what it is: The Lower School of St Andrew's, not the former Day School of this parish. I have insisted on that understanding and look forward to the complete shift in thinking that will come in time. In saying that, it is fair to remember that the best of the older principles and customs established here over the Day School's years are intact and serve as a healthy foundation. The future, however, is more exciting than any nostalgia for the past. The continuity provided by Pat Talbert Smith and many of the faculty have ensured that smooth and promising transition. As enrollment continues to expand, there is reason for optimism.

From the perspective of the parish, this agreement has been a blessing. It has helped stabilize financial operations for which the Vestry is responsible. St Andrew's careful attention to enhancing the building has refurbished the classroom space in ways we could not have done otherwise at this time. The playground has been restored if not to pristine beauty, then at least to an attractive area no longer resembling a trailer park. Visitors have joined us in worship who are part of the school community. In a time when the Episcopal Church does not always get the best publicity there is a bright witness to it in Potomac.

That is where things stand after a year. One thinks of the motto of many schools, "Excelsior." It's not a bad word for this venture.

## VESTRY CORNER: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Saint Francis Sunday School offers an outstanding and varied program to meet the spiritual needs of all our children, from preschool through high school. Under the devoted guidance of Carol Mitchell and the superbly prepared and dedicated volunteer teachers, the Sunday School continues to prosper and to carry out a number of excellent programs.

The curriculum from preschool through sixth grade is based on the Episcopal Children's Curriculum, rooted in Scripture and focusing on the Episcopal Church, the Book of Common Prayer, the 1982 Hymnal, and Church liturgy, tradition and history. The junior high school group uses a variety of activities, study, and discussion to examine who the members of the Church are and what God requires of them. The senior high probes spiritual issues, reinforcing Christian values and exploring their developing attitudes toward life.

### ADULT FORUM

Members of the Parish assemble between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday services for social interaction, instruction and discussion. The format varies depending on subject matter. The Forum is currently dormant through the summer, but planning is underway for next Fall, Winter and Spring. Two of the units to be scheduled will be presented by the Rector and the Choir Director. One will include choral anthems and theology, like the session Gary Davison did in May. The other will be on *Messiah*, fittingly scheduled during Eastertide.

- Fred Daly

## LAYREADERS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Would you consider serving as a Layreader? Training for new Layreaders will soon be scheduled during the early fall, and we hope you will consider joining this ministry.

The duties include reading the lessons, leading intercessions during the Prayer of the People, and administering the chalice during Holy Communion.

Service as a Layreader is a very rewarding form of participation in worship. It affords a deeper understanding of the liturgy. We offer comprehensive training on the duties to prepare Layreaders for their service.

The training consists of two evening sessions of one and one half hour's duration each. The first will focus on the techniques of voice projection. It is not a class on public speaking but is a way to enhance the public reading of the Bible or Prayer Book. The goal is clear voice projection to enable the congregation to hear the lessons and prayers distinctly.

The second session will cover the techniques for administering the Chalice and assisting in the administration of Holy Communion. Layreaders serve in a regular rotation at all services, although we try to schedule assignments in keeping with individual preferences.

Please consider this invitation to join this important parish ministry. For further information, contact Devar Burbage at 301-424-1993 daytime or evening.

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. If you would like to participate, please call Anne Seymour at 301-452-6699 to discuss the opportunity best suited to your talents.



POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR