

# SOUNDS

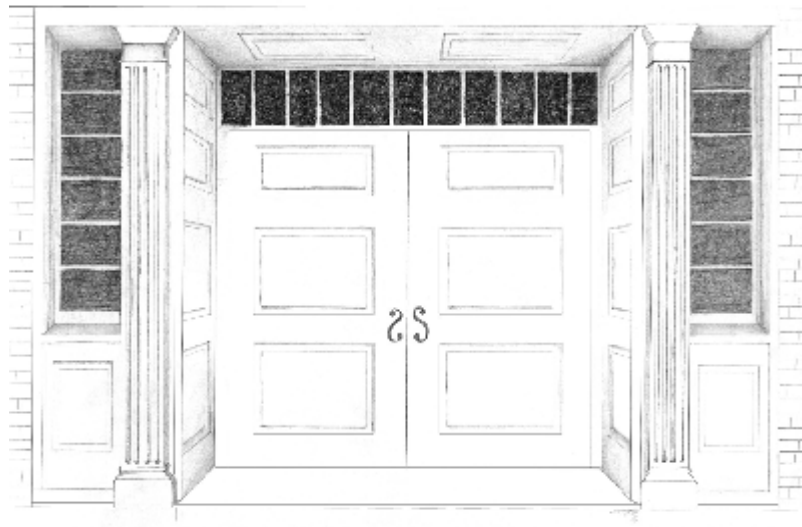
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Volume 39 No. 40

October 4, 2009

## 54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL POTOMAC COUNTRYHOUSE TOUR



SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 & 4, 2009



TOUR THE HOMES, BOUTIQUE SHOPPING AND LUNCH  
TO BENEFIT THE OUTREACH PROGRAMS OF ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## FROM THE RECTOR

Please permit me to express on behalf of many a deep sense of gratitude to all who are laboring on the Potomac Country House Tour. I learned the hard way that no roster is ever complete in acknowledging debts of appreciation since someone is inevitably omitted by oversight. One year we “rolled the credits” in this space from the actual House Tour ticket book only to leave out two indefatigable ladies whose names had been left out of the book itself. Ever since, I have shied away from such lists. But it is easy to pay thanks to Fran and Anne Baker. I know we have often had two generations involved in prior tours, but I do not believe we have ever had co-chairs who were “intergenerational”. They will be a hard act to follow, a truth all who have worked on this year’s Tour know well.

Still, I write not just to Fran and Anne (and by extension to Jim also) but to all in our parish who make this annual event possible. Revenue and expenses will be reckoned after the Tour, so that report must come later. It would be disingenuous to assert that the money does not matter, for the truth is, it does. It cannot be said too often that House Tour remains the principal vehicle for raising outreach funding in this parish. Even if we had an endowment or some other inherited source of such money, we would lack something apart from the “sweat equity” that comes from the work so many offer to make any Tour a success. That allows a secondary observation, that this is not just about the money. House Tour builds up the community of this parish in a way unlike any other “project”, to oversimplify the whole thing.

The great Bible translator William Tyndale saw in I Thessalonians (1:3) a “labour *in* love.” The scholars who edited Tyndale to produce

the Authorized, or King James Version, reworked that phrase as “labour *of* love.” Perhaps there is a difference in that distinction, but it is not apparent. Four centuries later, the editors of the Revised English Bible elected to put the concept this way: “We continually call to mind, before our God and Father, how your faith has shown itself in action, *your love in labour*, and your hope of our Lord Jesus Christ in perseverance.” Regardless of how it is styled, the concept Tyndale saw in the oldest New Testament book is seen in fresh reality in something like House Tour. Keeping that truth in mind will help set the right context for all the hours so many expend every year. All of those elements are mixed here: Faith in action, love in this labour, and perseverance to make it come about for the work of the Lord.

Each time St Francis hosts a House Tour the familiar refrain sounds, “This will probably be the last one.” Reasonable factors are cited to support that prediction: The difficulty of getting houses, the challenge of human personnel, the competition for our guests’ time and dollars, and on and on. It is hardly news that such thoughts are bruited about. What I have noticed, however, is that it is never the Fran and Anne Bakers of the parish who say this. We would be in bad shape if they did. To a person – and I have been here for two dozen of these affairs – the chairs have been enablers in the best sense of that word. They make it possible for others to do their labors of love in love, and with no small amount of perseverance. A parish that can unfailingly summon such people to these big tasks has many reasons to take heart, and is not short of sterling examples for others to follow.

We pray for God’s grace to sustain this and all works done in the Name of our Lord in and through our labors of love.

## A WILLIAMSBURG REVIEW

*At my request, Kathleen Alexander has written an impression of her experience attending the Candlelight Concert offered by the St Francis Choir at Williamsburg's Bruton Parish Church just a few weeks ago. These are her words unchanged and without coaching. I wish you could all have been there. Please be assured your parish choir represented us marvelously and beautifully expressed tenets of our faith to an enthusiastic audience through the refined music and words they sang in that historic and sacred space.*

– GD

\* \* \*

There is something transformational and transcendent about hearing beautiful choral music superbly sung in a candlelit church where once the likes of Washington and Jefferson worshiped. Such was the experience of listening to the St Francis Choir performing works by the very best English composers at the old Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Outside the church during rehearsal hours, waiting spouses and passing visitors caught bits and pieces of complex harmonies, soaring notes and the swelling sound of a glorious organ, so it wasn't a surprise that on this lovely night, the pews were full.

I introduced myself to the people sitting near me, a couple from North Carolina celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They decided a candlelight concert at this historic church would be a treat, even though they had no idea of what was to be sung. When they saw the program, the man's eyebrow's lifted. "This is pretty ambitious," he said, with the look of a musician whose experience with church choirs may not have been all good.

The music started, and from time to time, I

heard small sounds of appreciation from those around me as the music of Tallis, Purcell, Handel, Wesley, Stanford and others filled the space. At some point, there was a light tap on my shoulder and there was the man I had spoken with earlier - with a big smile and both thumbs upraised. At the end of the concert he came up to me and said, "Have you ever seen pictures from the Hubble telescope? That's all I could think of listening to this music. I wish I lived closer, so I could come to your church."

Aren't we blessed to already be at 'our church' and to know that we will be hearing this music over the next several months in the course of our Sunday liturgies.

– Kathleen Alexander

## THE ST FRANCIS GOLF OUTING & COOKOUT

### IT'S NOT JUST FOR GOLFERS: IT'S FOR EVERYONE

As those who attended last year will tell you, this is a fun-filled event. marked by good company, good humor, and delicious food and drink. Mark your calendar now so you won't miss it: Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

The golfers have a Shotgun start at 1:00 pm at the Falls Road Golf Course and play til 6 pm or so. All golfers are welcome, regardless of your skill level. Please look for our flyers and ads for more details.



The rest of us will join for a glass of wine or a beer and some hors d'oeuvres between 5:30 and 6:00 pm in St. Francis Hall. The Cookout Dinner will be ready around 6:00 pm. Come and join in the fun. You'll be glad that you did!



## POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR

### ON-LINE AUCTION

### BIDDING IS OPEN 'TIL 5 PM SUNDAY

When we announced the first PCHT ONLINE AUCTION we were excited about this foray into web technology. We are even more excited now as we look at the pages of auction items and we hope you will be as well.

You have until Sunday, 10/4/09, at 5 pm to bid on some of the great items still available in our on-line auction. Just go the web site: [www.potomaccountryhousetour.org](http://www.potomaccountryhousetour.org) and click on the Auctions link at the top of the page and then on the bolded link to the PCHT Auction in Paragraph 2. There you can view all the items and bid on your favorites.

Here is a sneak peek:

- **SUNDAY BRUNCHES** at the Ritz Carlton and Four Seasons Hotels and **fourteen (14) other dining experiences** from casual dining to haute cuisine;
- **PERSONALIZED SERVICES** including an artist's portrait of your pet; pampering at the the Red Door Salon, coupons for local Dry Cleaners, and more;
- **INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS** with a Golf Pro; a Home Design Consultant; Personal Trainers and a Health Counselor to name a few; and
- **UNIQUE EXPERIENCES** from Hot Air Balloon rides to overnight stays in historic areas and visits to fascinating attractions.

There are lots more wonderful items including several pieces of Artwork, Portraits, Interior Design Consults, and Home and Garden items including the marvelous handmade beaten copper Pig weather vane, Theater tickets, Fitness Packages, Museum tours, Hotel stays, and jewelry.

Join in our exciting experiment, check out our Auction web site and bid on some of the marvelous items we are offering. Please help make our 1st on-line Auction be a rousing success!

**Don't Delay! Access our website and have fun bidding !**

***Bidding Closes Forever on Sunday, 10/4/09, at 5:00 pm.***

# ***Potomac Country House Tour Boutiques, Luncheon & Desserts***



**October 3 & 4, 2009**



[www.potomaccountryhousetour.org](http://www.potomaccountryhousetour.org)

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road, Potomac, Md

*Shopping for a cause!!*

*Start your holiday shopping or treat yourself and shop with our  
20 new fabulous vendors! Enjoy a delicious Gourmet Lunch  
and a sweet treat from the Dessert Café!*

**Boutiques:** FREE Admission, no ticket required

Saturday 10-5pm, Sunday 11-5pm

**Luncheon:** Lunch available ala carte, 11:30-2:30 daily

**Dessert Café:** Open 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm daily

## **Participating Vendors:**

The Posh Pooch

Whichcraft Gallery

The Cottage Monet

Fortune Flora

Paper Thoughts

Wendy Jarmol Jewelry

Arbonne

Erica Hardy Design

BellaFiori Glass Studio

IGd

Little Gorilla Design

Cross My Heart Designs

Private Quarters

DanaJill Designs

Striker's All in Stitches

The Surrey

Blue Eyed Susan

Tanta's Treasures

B's Purses

Accent4tots

John Troha Photography

*A portion of all sales go to our outreach programs and charities*

**COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS**

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

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:15 am Choral Matins

**POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR**

11:00 am Boutiques Open in Hall

11:30 to 2:30 pm Luncheon

12:00 to 5:00 pm Tour of Homes

12:00 to 5:00 pm Desserts served in the  
Antiques Café

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6**

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir

5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7**

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 10/18

5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study

7:30 pm St. Francis Choir

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11**

**HUNGER SUNDAY**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:15 am Morning Prayer

1:00 pm Confirmation Class

The Scripture appointed for the Feast of St. Francis Assisi:  
Galatians 6:14-18, Matthew 11:25-30, Psalm 148:7-14 or Psalm 121

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**SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS (USPS 561-890)**

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