

SOUNDS

of

Volume 39 No. 37

October 11, 2009

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The Grace
of God is
with you!

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR

Words and Thoughts of a Friend

Traveling through Italy the past couple of weeks on Nashotah House's Archbishop Michael Ramsey Society pilgrimage, we spent a couple of days in Assisi, home to St. Francis. I found myself drawn to return more than once to the church of St. Clare, where, in a side chapel, hangs the large crucifix that once hung in the church in San Damiano. It was before this crucifix, in the summer of the year 1206, that Francis had the experience that sealed his conversion.

Francis had always possessed a heart that was concerned for God and for others, but he began to be increasingly convicted that his father's obsession with money, his mother's concerns for his health, and his own desires for sumptuous foods, lavish clothes, and extravagant parties were something he needed to renounce in response to the call of God for his life.

Francis frequently took walks in the countryside around Assisi, and one of his favorite paths took him past the church of San Damiano, a tumbling down, deserted chapel halfway down a steep hill outside the walls of the city. In this decrepit place hung a large, almost life size painted icon of Jesus on the Cross.

One summer day, in 1206, Francis was walking in the vicinity of San Damiano when he felt an interior tug of the Spirit to go inside to pray. Obeying the inner voice, Francis entered and fell on his knees before the familiar icon, his own spirit alert to what the Lord might wish to convey.

In eager anticipation, Francis looked up into the serene face of the crucified Lord, and prayed this prayer: "Most High, glorious God," he prayed, "cast your light into the darkness of my heart. Give me, Lord, right faith, firm hope,

perfect charity, and profound humility, with wisdom and perception, so that I may carry out what is truly Your holy will. Amen." Ever more quietly he repeated the prayer, lost in devotion and wonder before the image of his crucified Lord.

Then, in the quietness, Francis heard Jesus speaking to him from the Cross: "Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you can see, is falling into ruin." Another translation gives these words as, "Francis, don't you see that my house is being destroyed? Go, then, and rebuild it for me." In short, "Rebuild My Church!"

So Francis looked around at the crumbling church of San Damiano, gathered some of his friends together and rebuilt it. Then they went out and began restoring other church buildings in the vicinity of Assisi that were in need of repair. Only gradually did Francis realize that "rebuild my church" meant to reform the institution, to rebuild it by witnessing to the truth of the faith and calling people to renewed faithfulness to Christ and commitment to His mission.

As I spent time in Assisi last week, I had the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' call to Francis and what those words might mean for me today. Certainly as we look around we see a Church that is in need of repair and rebuilding--whether it is the institutional churches of "mainline Christianity" in America, or the Church as it exists in areas of the world that are deemed "post-Christian," or churches of all types in every place that are wracked by materialism, hedonism, apathy, and lack of commitment.

I believe that, in the midst of these circumstances, God is calling faithful Christians to rebuild the Church, (1) by renewing their own witness to the truth of the Christian faith, (2) by reflecting God's holiness and

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RECTOR

Continued from page 1

love to each other and especially to those who need to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord, (3) by giving visible expression to the unity of all faithful Christians whenever and wherever possible, and (4) by *being the Church* even when the institutional churches of which they are a part may fail at that same calling. –

The Very Rev'd Robert S. Munday is the Dean of Nashota House, one of the seminaries of The Episcopal Church. This essay, reprinted with the author's permission, is taken from his site, <http://toalltheworld.blogspot.com/>.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS RESUMES

The Rector's Bible class resumes Wednesday, October 14 at 11:00am. This term St Paul's Epistle to the Romans will be the main topic.

Considered the most mature summary of the Apostle's teaching and theology, Romans has been the inspiration for most important renewal movements in the church's history, from the central thinking of St Augustine, through the powerful reformation launched by Martin Luther, to the great revivals of the Wesley brothers.

Classes meet in the Kincaid Library following the 10:00 service and last for an hour.

WSF GIVES WARM WELCOME TO JOSIAH

Twenty-five people attended the Women of St. Francis' luncheon to welcome Josiah Rengers, our new seminarian. The event was held at Carol Jarvis' home and co-hosted by Carol, Kathy Barker and Barbara Moore.

If you would like to be on the e-mail list to be informed of events like this and other WSF Sponsored events, please e-mail Jarvis.carol@gmail.com.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sounds

DATE: 1 October 2009

RE: Cantate Chamber Singers concert

Date: Saturday, 17 October 2009

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: St John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish; 6701 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD

Tickets: www.cantate.org or at the door

FLOWERS IN THE SNOW

In 2001-2002, I composed a large-scale choral work called *Flowers in the Snow*, a non-liturgical Requiem in the form of a triptych. It was written for Cantate Chamber Singers while serving as their first Composer-in-Residence. The primary text is a poem of the same name by DC-based attorney and priest, the Rev'd Alfred Chiplin. That poem is intertwined with ancient sacred poetry and passages from our BCP's Burial Office and is set for full chorus, treble semi-chorus, organ, piano, cello, percussion, and a featured solo role for counter-tenor.

On October 17th, Cantate Chamber Singers will perform this work again as part of their opening program to their 25th anniversary season. The concert takes places at St John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish, in Chevy Chase. I have been invited to conduct my work and I will be joined by several of our own Choral Scholars who will sing the treble semi-chorus part. I hope you will join us for this festal occasion. Tickets and more information may be had by visiting the website, www.cantate.org. Tickets are also available at the door that evening.

GD, O-C

OUTREACH CORNER:

DIOCESAN HUNGER WALK OCTOBER 18



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 18 at 1:30 p.m.!** That's the date and start time for the

Diocesan 29th Walk for the Hungry. We would love to have a team from St. Francis join the effort, which benefits the Hunger Fund. Last year's walk raised over \$4,000 for the Fund. The local walk is again hosted by Christ Church Rockville around beautiful Lake Artemisia, a 38 acre lake in Berwyn Heights and College Park. Susan Dolan walked last year and reports that it is a beautiful setting and not at all difficult. Walkers collect pledges of support from friends, co-workers, and relatives for each kilometer they walk or run, and the money is forwarded to the Hunger Fund. Participants can choose between a 5K and 10K (2.5 miles to 6+ miles) walk.

The Hunger Fund is administered by a volunteer committee made up of representatives from all six of the diocesan regions. They meet every other month to consider grant requests from the organizations that provide food to the ever-growing population of homeless and hungry people who live in the area. St. Francis collects money for the Hunger Fund on the second Sunday of each month, and is one of the largest contributors to the Fund.

There is a map on the bulletin board in St. Francis Hall with details about the walk; you can also check out www.pgparcs.com/places/nature/artemesia.html. If you would be interested, please contact Andy Jordan, Outreach Committee, at 301 299-3162 or marionaj@aol.com. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon

BOOK CLUB MEETS OCTOBER 22nd

We will be discussing: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, the author of the *The Kite Runner*. Described as "A brave, honorable, big-hearted book." by The Washington Post, it is the story of 33 tumultuous years in Afghanistan as seen through the lives of two women. It is a compelling, powerful and beautifully written work and we look forward to discussing it with you in the Youth Room at 7:30 pm.

LOSS AND GRIEF WORKSHOP

Clinical social workers Cay Hartley and Elizabeth Dietel - both experienced in grief work - will lead this informative session from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday at St. Alban's, D.C. (Nourse Hall). The session is free of charge and open to the community. Come, listen, ask questions. Learn ways to care for our grieving selves. Explore ways to help others. Become aware of the resources in our community. RSVP to 202/363-8286 x219

FIRST WEDNESDAY CONCERTS AT ST. JOHN'S IN LAFAYETTE SQUARE



If you happen to be downtown, a series of concerts featuring the new Lively-Fulcher pipe organ at St. John's, Lafayette Square will kick off at 12:10 p.m. Oct. 7 with associate choirmaster and organist Michael Lodico performing works of the American, English and French Romantics.

For details, visit www.stjohns-dc.org or contact Kaye Edwards at kaye.edwards@stjohns-dc.org or 202/347-8766. Performances last about 35 minutes.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

3rd Annual St Francis Golf Outing & Cookout

Friday, October 16, 2009

1:00 pm Shotgun Start



*All Parishioners, Guests, & Players ,
are invited to the Cookout dinner at
the church starting around 5:30 pm
Players will join us after their game.*



YES, count me in: Golf @ \$75.00 a player (includes dinner)

No Golf, but I will be there for dinner \$25.00

1. _____ *handicap* _____

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2. _____ *handicap* _____

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3. _____ *handicap* _____

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4. _____ *handicap* _____

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Please make checks payable to St Francis (golf outing)

COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

HUNGER SUNDAY

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Holy Eucharist
11:15 am Morning Prayer
1:00 pm Confirmation Class

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study
7:30 Layreader Training—Church

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:30 Senior Carpools leave for Cryptology Museum
5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 10/25
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:30 pm St. Francis Choir

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
1:00 pm Golfing starts @ Falls Rd Course
5:30 Cocktails & Snacks in Hall
6-6:30 pm Parish Dinner Starts

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Morning Prayer
11:15 am Holy Eucharist
1:00 pm Confirmation Class

The Scripture appointed for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost:
Psalm 22:1-15 or Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

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PUBLISHER: William M. Shand, III; Staff: Anne Haller, Herb Haller, Liz McLean McCordic, Helen Stupar, and Aradine Tardy

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