

# SOUNDS

Of

Volume 39 No. 39

November 1, 2009

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## *Music at Eventide*

*The Feast of All Saints'*

1 November, 5:30 p.m. Evensong

With prayers offered for the faithful departed.



The Reverend William M. Shand, III, Officiant

The Saint Francis Choir

Music by William Byrd, William Crotch, Henry Purcell,  
John Ireland, Bernard Rose, and Gary Davison

Reception following.

Childcare provided.

## FROM THE RECTOR

Had it not been for the humidity, the day of Pam Ramsey's funeral might have been mistaken for a day in Scotland, not late October in Maryland. Other than unseasonal weather the day and the occasion were just right. Gathered in St Francis Church were folks from various chapters in this church's history, all gathered to give thanks to God for the life of a remarkable lady and a faithful Christian.

Pam was a native Scot, and grew up in the Border country. When World War II erupted she joined what was then known as the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, the distaff side of the Royal Air Force (RAF). Numbering something over 180,000 women, the WAAF did not participate in combat during the Battle of Britain, but their ground support was essential, especially in navigation and communication. That was her principal theatre of operations, as it was said in those days, and her service was eventually recognized and honored by King George VI. Beyond her own distinguished service, Pam could relate what it was like to be in the Underground (subway) during the Blitz, those bombing attacks on London.

During the war she met and married Donald Ramsey, who rose to the rank of Admiral in the U. S. Navy. It was her marriage that brought Pam to these shores, and, in time, to St Francis. Here she was the first female Junior Warden (1975), an active church leader, and an adjunct volunteer in various youth group activities. When the last capital campaign was conducted here in 1994-95, a gift was given in her honor: A plaque in recognition of her services was positioned in the Youth Room, site of so much business over the years, from vestry meetings to Bible classes to youth group sessions.

Those who have been here for a more than

a few years may recall that Pam chaired the search committee which called me to this parish. At her funeral I stated the obvious, namely that without Pam, I would never have been at this church at all. That seems so long ago (twenty-two years to be precise), and what I recall most was the rare combination Pam displayed of seriousness of purpose (she really meant business) mixed with constant encouragement. She had a fine committee with whom to work, and she and Bill Wyatt, then senior warden, made it clear each person involved would do his or her duty. I might add, that included even Bishop Walker, who later told me he knew that Pam and Bill would serve this parish well in their search. I hope they continued to think they did.

As we come to the celebration of All Saints', it is meet and right to think of those people who profoundly influenced our lives for the better. The Prayer Book speaks of "the choice vessels of [God's] grace who have been the lights of the world in their several generations." Such people are *not* described that way solely for elegant style, but to help us remember that in the light they shine we see and are given grace to do God's will. Being a choice vessel is one of the richest ways we can encourage others, a theme that is recurrent in my own thinking. In Pam's life, such encouragement was more than a theme; it was the essential characteristic she displayed in many ways. I am hardly alone in these thoughts, even though in all our parish, mine is the greatest debt to her.



## FROM STEVE HARPER, STEWARDSHIP CHAIRMAN 2010

My family joined St. Francis Church back in 1993. Since then we have been fortunate to take advantage of the many blessings that St. Francis and the Lord have provided us. The 2010 stewardship campaign is underway. Stewardship is a way to give back to the church to show gratitude for the things that we are thankful for. I feel it is our obligation to show this expression. Financial Stewardship allows the church to provide excellent worship services, Christian education, youth programs, outreach, etc. In these challenging economic times, tithing is very important. The average pledge last yr was approximately \$3000 per household. The Vestry and the Finance committee are preparing a well thought-out conservative budget for 2010. In order to sustain St. Francis' programs, the church is asking everyone to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge by a meaningful amount.

The second form of stewardship that the church is looking for is more involvement from our parishioners. Getting involved with various activities within the church allows for learning, sharing fellowship and a feeling of having a church home. You will also meet a lot of wonderful caring people as well.

In the coming weeks, you will hear important stewardship messages and will receive a pledge card. Please return the card as soon as possible so the Vestry can plan how to meet the church's financial obligations for the coming year.



## JOY AND CONCERN

Please join in prayer for Bob Lincoln who is ill.

## SENIOR'S NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

On Thursday, November 19, the next Senior's luncheon will be held in St. Francis Hall at 12:00 pm.

This will be a pot-luck and you are asked to bring a salad, main dish or dessert based on your last name. If your last name begins with **A-F**, please bring a main course, **G-O** bring a salad, and **P-Z** bring a dessert- all ready to serve 6 to 8 people! This idea for lunch was suggested by several of you in last May's questionnaire, so we'll give it a try!

Beverages, other than wine, and rolls will be supplied. The cost will only be \$5.00. Please call Christine in the Church Office to make reservations, indicating what dish you will bring.

Our speaker will be Bill Offut, author, retired teacher and Montgomery County Historical Society Speaker. His topic, with slides, is "Montgomery County: A Rich History". This should be a fabulous program!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for THURSDAY  
11/19!**

## FIVE TALENTS INTERNATIONAL DINNER

Five Talents International will commemorate a decade of fighting poverty, creating jobs and transforming lives on Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Va. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with cocktails, followed by dinner and a keynote presentation by Rev. Thomas Anei, a project officer for Five Talents in Sudan. Tickets are \$125 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (703) 242-6016, or visit [www.FiveTalents.org](http://www.FiveTalents.org).

## COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

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

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

#### ALL SAINTS' DAY

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:00am Holy Eucharist

Sunday School & Adult Education Hour

11:15 am Holy Eucharist

1:00 pm Confirmation class

5:30 pm Evensong—reception following

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir

5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:00 am Rector's Bible Study

5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 11/15

5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study

7:30 pm St Francis Choir

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

10:00 am Confirmation—National Cathedral

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

#### HUNGER SUNDAY

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday School & Adult Education Hour

11:15 am Morning Prayer

The Scripture appointed for All Saints' Day:

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44

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