

St. Francis Episcopal Church
Potomac Parish

SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS

August - September 2018



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WWW.STFRANCISPOTOMAC.ORG • 10033 RIVER RD POTOMAC MD 20854 • 301-365-2055

In This Issue...



6

From the Rector

Father Mac Stewart discusses spiritual renewal and our upcoming RenewalWorks program



20

Parish News

Meet Shanti, Flower dedications, new website is in the works



12

Sunday School

Sunday School resumes September 9



23

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings resume on September 9th

- 3 Calendar**
Upcoming events at St. Francis - Mark your calendar so you don't miss anything
- 7 Music Notes**
The relevance of refined sacred music to our spiritual lives
- 8 Reaching Out**
Our outreach ministry was busy this summer with shelter meals, and upcoming projects include a clothing drive.
- 10 Women of St. Francis**
Many parishioners attended the Summer Potluck Dinners; Book Club meets again on September 11th.

- 15 RenewalWorks**
We will begin the RenewalWorks program with an online survey available September 16th.
- 17 Voice of the Vestry**
The Senior Warden offers a summary of the recent Vestry meeting
- 18 Men of St. Francis**
The MSF enjoyed a fun filled summer, with a fishing trip, a baseball game and service projects.
- 26 Community Bulletin Board**
Check out these upcoming events from community organizations and parishioner groups

Month-At-A-Glance

Summer Sunday Service Schedule: 8:00am and 10am. Fellowship after the 10:00 service.

Regular Sunday Service Schedule: 8:00am and 9:15am. Sunday School at 10:30am.

THIS MONTH AT ST. FRANCIS

August 25 @ 6:30pm: Summer Potluck at the Hurdle home

August 26 @ 11:00am: meeting for 11:30 service attendees

September 2: LAST DAY of Summer Service Schedule

September 3 & 4: Church office closed - Labor Day

September 7 @ 7pm: Sunset Under the Steeple

September 7 @ 8:30pm: Outdoor Movie

September 9: Return to Regular Service Schedule

September 9 @ 10:30am: Renewal Sunday Ice Cream Social

September 9 @ 10:30am: Georgetown Hill presentation

September 9 @ 6pm: Youth Group BBQ & Kickball

September 11 @ 11:30am: Book Club Discussion

September 16 @ 10:30am: Christian Education resumes
with Sunday School & Adult Forums

September 16: RenewalWorks begins

September 18 @ 7:30pm: Vestry Meeting

September 20 @ 11:30am: Savvy Senior Luncheon

September 22 @ 9am: Confirmation Class Retreat

September 29 & 30: Loaves & Fishes Meal Service

September 29 @ 6pm: MSF Oktoberfest

September 30: Stewardship Campaign begins

Weekly Events

Sundays at 8am & 9:15am: services

Sundays at 6:00pm: Youth Group

Tuesdays at 9:30am: Morning Prayer

Tuesdays at 5pm: Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 10am: Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays at 11am: Bible Study

Thursdays at 7am: Mens' Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:30am: Morning Prayer

Thursdays at 5pm: Evening Prayer

Fridays at 9:30am: Morning Prayer

Fridays at 5pm: Evening Prayer

**SERVICE TIMES CHANGE
SEPTEMBER 9
8AM & 9:15AM**

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

October 2 @ 11:30am: Book Club Discussion

October 6 @ 5pm: Blessing of the Animals Service

October 7 @ 5pm: Choral Evensong & Evening of the Arts

October 13 @ 9am: Confirmation Class Retreat

October 20: Potomac Day

November 3 @ 10am: Confirmation Service at the Cathedral

August 16 - 18, 2019: Parish Retreat (Mark Your Calendar Now!)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 16
10:30AM**

The next issue of Sounds will be published in early October. Please submit articles and photos by September 15th.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|--|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 29 Loaves and Fishes 8am - Holy Eucharist 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | 30 | 31 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5pm - Evening Prayer | 1 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 2 7am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 3 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 4 |
| 5 8am - Holy Eucharist 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | 6 | 7 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 11:30am - MSF & Youth Attend 11:30am - WSF Book Club 5pm - Evening Prayer | 8 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 9 7am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 10 3pm - Journey for Hope Team Visit 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer 6pm - Potluck Dinner @ Karen | 11 |
| 12 8am - Holy Eucharist 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | 13 | 14 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5pm - Evening Prayer 5:30pm - YG to Manna Food | 15 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 16 7am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 17 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 18 |
| 19 8am - Holy Eucharist | 20 | 21 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5pm - Evening Prayer | 22 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 23 7am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 1:15pm - Staff Meeting 5pm - Evening Prayer | 24 Saint Bartholomew the Apostle 9:30am - Morning Prayer 1pm - Tent. Wedding of Madelyn 5pm - Evening Prayer | 25 6:30pm - Summer Potluck: Ken |
| 26 8am - Holy Eucharist 11am - Meeting to discuss 11:30 | 27 | 28 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5pm - Evening Prayer | 29 10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 30 7am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 31 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 1 |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 8 am - Holy Eucharist 11 am - Meeting to discuss 11:30 | 27 | 28 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5 pm - Evening Prayer | 29 10 am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11 am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 30 7 am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 31 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 1 |
| 2 8 am - Holy Eucharist | 3 Church Offices Closed | 4 Church Offices Closed: Labor Day 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5 pm - Evening Prayer | 5 10 am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11 am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 6 7 am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 7 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Sunset Under the 8pm - AA Meeting 8:15pm - Outdoor Movie | 8 |
| 9 Pentecost 16 Welcome Back Sunday 8 am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Family Eucharist 10:30am - Welcome Back Sunday 11:30am - Morning Prayer 6pm - Youth Group Meeting - | 10 Church Offices Closed | 11 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 11:30am - WSF Book Club 5 pm - Evening Prayer | 12 10 am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11 am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 13 7 am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 11am - Bob Rood's Memorial 5pm - Evening Prayer | 14 Holy Cross Day 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Sung Evening Prayer 8pm - AA Meeting | 15 |
| 16 Pentecost 17 8 am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Choral Morning Prayer 10:30am - Adult Forum: Global 10:30am - Children and Youth 10:30am - Newcomers' Class 11:30am - Holy Eucharist 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | 17 Church Offices Closed | 18 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5 pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Vestry Meeting @ | 19 Ember Wednesday 10 am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11 am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 20 7 am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 21 Ember Friday St. Matthew's Day 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Sung Evening Prayer 8pm - AA Meeting | 22 Ember Saturday 9 am - Confirmation Retreat Day |
| 23 Pentecost 18 8 am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Choral Eucharist 10:30am - Adult Forum: Global 10:30am - Children and Youth 10:30am - Newcomers' Class 11:30am - Morning Prayer 4pm - Newcomer Reception: | 24 Church Offices Closed | 25 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5 pm - Evening Prayer | 26 10 am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11 am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 27 7 am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 28 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer 8pm - AA Meeting | 29 Feast of St. Michael and All 8 am - Service Project, Cooking 6pm - Men of St. Francis |
| 30 Pentecost 19 Stewardship Campaign Begins: 8 am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Choral Eucharist 9:30am - Service Project: 10:30am - Adult Forum: Global 10:30am - Children and Youth 10:30am - Newcomers' Class | 1 Church Offices Closed | 2 9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 11:30am - WSF Book Club 5 pm - Evening Prayer | 3 10 am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11 am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room | 4 Feast of St Francis of Assisi 7 am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer | 5 9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer 8pm - AA Meeting | 6 5pm - Blessing of the Animals |

FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

RECTOR'S

thoughts

This month's column is written by Assistant Rector Father Mac Stewart while Father Mark is on vacation.

Renewed in Christ

Engraved over the stone archway that leads to the chapel at my seminary were the words, "Be transformed by the renewing of your minds." They were fitting words for seminarians to read every day, a helpful reminder that the new knowledge with which we were filling our minds through sacred study was all intended to lead to our own renewal in faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

But the broader context from which this scriptural text comes suggests that genuine renewal in Christ is about far more than simply gaining new knowledge. "Do not be conformed to this world," says St. Paul, "but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2). Seeking genuine renewal in accordance with the will of God involves living a new kind of life: we are not to be conformed to the world but transformed into the image of Christ. That means not simply learning new ideas, but also seeing that our lives in Christ take on a different form than the tired old lifestyle of the rest of the world.

Paul expands on this elsewhere when he calls the Ephesians to "be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:23-24). Paul calls Christians to allow the truth of Christ to become visibly manifest in the way we live our lives, almost like a new form of clothing. Our lives, both as individual Christians and as Christian communities, should shine with the joy and love, the mercy and devotion – "true righteousness and holiness" – of Christ.

We should be precise here, though. It is not simply that Christians ought to be nice people. Many non-Christians turn away from the faith because they expect to find in the church only nice people, and when they don't, they imagine that this is sufficient grounds for dismissing the whole thing. But Christianity has never claimed to deal only with nice people. Jesus did not hang around people that were already upright and respectable. He hung around people whose lives needed

a complete renewal. As C. S. Lewis put it in *Mere Christianity*, Christianity is not about confirming nice people in their niceness, but about making "new men." It's not about, as he says, teaching a horse to jump better and better but about turning a horse into a winged creature. God wants to make us, in a sense, a whole new kind of being; not just better people, but sons and daughters of God.

And that is what the Church is for. The Church is the place where God continually puts on us the new nature that he has made for us. He does this through all the ways that the Church is called to be the Church: through our celebration of the sacraments, our reading and studying of Scripture, our fellowship with one another, and our reaching out to relieve the necessities of the poor. These are the ways that Christ renews us in his Church, the conduits through which he sends his Holy Spirit to us, not just to make us feel better about ourselves, but to make us holy.

The mission of the Church doesn't stop there, of course. Jesus calls us to share in his renewal of the whole world outside the church's walls by proclaiming the good news of his salvation in word and deed and thereby bringing more and more people into the depths of his healing embrace. But in order to share fully in that work of universal renewal, we need first to have a deep sense of the renewal that Christ has brought and is bringing to our own lives. We need to put on fully the new nature he has given us.

It was with this in mind that our Vestry, at its retreat in February, discerned that during this program year, our parish would undertake a concerted focus on renewing our own spiritual life as a congregation. We want our individual and collective Christian lives to glow with the radiance of "righteousness and holiness," to take on a form that is deeply compelling to the outsider not just by our niceness, but by the way we honor and obey the Lord, grow in faith and hope, and care for one another and our community in sacrificial love.

As one step in this process, we will in the coming months be implementing a congregational resource that has been put
continued on page 9

MUSIC NOTES

*“O God, whom saints and angles delight to worship in heaven:
Be ever present with your sereant who seek through
art and music to perfect the praises offered”*

Over the years, I’ve written a good bit of commentary on refined sacred music and its relevance to our spiritual lives and sacrifices of praise. My convictions grow stronger on its worth, even after so many decades of working in the Church where, in some corners, that’s not always the view. Happily, I was mentored wisely early on in these matters and I intend to continue my own efforts of educating and encouraging all ages, especially the young, of that worth. And, once again, let me hasten to add that the support by this parish of my own endeavors is not lost on me. That certainly is a primary reason why I’ve been here nearly a quarter of a century now!

Of course, the musical arts are not the only compelling expressions of our life and faith, and perhaps that’s overlooked sometimes. Obviously, words in the form of prayers, poems, and instruction (e.g. sermons, Bible study, etc.) are the very bedrock from which rise our Christian insights and on which we construct our visual expressions of the



“Praise Him From Whom All Blessings Flow”
Thomas Ken, Quire Stall Tapestry,
Wells Cathedral

same. My time at Wells in July reminded me of that, as it seems always to do, as treasured liturgical texts articulated in such a beautiful and long-standing edifice adorned with exquisite tapestries, statues, and stained glass conspire to attest to their collective worth – over the centuries and, thankfully, even now.

That’s all a prelude to inviting you to our first Music at Eventide event this Fall Term. We will mark our Patronal Feast on October 7th with a 5 o’clock evensong in the church, followed by a parish supper in St Francis Hall with the annual **Evening of**

the Arts presented by our Sunday School and Youth Group. Students will be performing, and will have created artwork, crafts, and culinary delights to sell in support of their outreach efforts for Bishop Gaula in Africa. This fundraiser is an unabashed family-friendly event, wholly appropriate for a celebration of our patron saint. I truly do hope you will

join us for a very special evening in our parish life together as our Music, Sunday School, and Youth Group programs come together through the moving expressions of the sacred arts.

*O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music
to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth;
and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty,
and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

“Collect for Church Musicians and Artists”
The Book of Common Prayer (1979, p. 819)

-Gary Davison
Organist & Choirmaster



A view to the Wells Cathedral quire and organ looking west

*Choral Evensong & Evening of the Arts
celebrating the Feast of St. Francis*

October 7th at 5:00pm

Reaching Out

St. Francis in the community

Summertime Doings

Hunger doesn't take a summer break, and the livin' ain't necessarily easier in summertime for clients of the area's shelters and feeding programs. Response to this chronic need bubbled up from groups around the parish, working with one another to bring a bit of respite to our neighbors and share some fellowship together. On July 7, the MSF and Youth brought a 'Fourth' cookout to The National Center for Children and Families (aka Greentree Shelter) in Bethesda. Stalwarts from the WSF and Parish Outreach Committee again provided hearty casseroles to the Loaves and Fishes feeding program at St. Stephen's and the Incarnation on July 27-28. As this issue of Sounds goes to print, the Youth have been collecting shelf-stable food items to bring when they go to serve at Manna Food Center on August 14. And in this column, the Parish Outreach Committee thanks those who dodged the thunderstorms to prepare bag lunches and dinners for the Interfaith Works Women's Center on July 23-24.



Interfaith Works Women's Center (formerly Community Based Shelter) in Rockville is well known to St. Francis; many parishioners have joined in to prepare lunches and dinners



to its transitionally housed female residents since we began providing a week's meal there eighteen-years ago. The annual "St. Francis Week" there (timed as a Lenten service opportunity) sees a few new recruits every time we serve. Summer meal coverage becomes spotty, as volunteers go on vacation while

residents do not, so our two-day stint in July helped fill in the gaps. The Parish Outreach committee shopped for lunch supplies and some needed provisions: seasonal fruit, breakfast items, paper and cleaning supplies. Caroline and Kate Schneider joined Fr. Mac Stewart and Susan Dolan to make artfully decorated

bag lunches one night, with Pat Bernard and Mary Sexton staffing the lunch



'assembly line' the following day. Gail Feagles hard-boiled dozens of eggs, providing a welcome break from cereal and additional breakfast protein for the ladies. Healthful, delicious summer meals were prepared and cheerfully served by Diane Seward, Sue Tendall, Barbara Moore, Carol Thedford, Dexter Ewel, Erica McNeilly, Pat McNeilly and myself.

"This meal was over the top!" and "Just right for summer – God bless you!" were among the many thanks. If you missed out this time, plan now to join us for a week of meals there just prior to Lent 2019! IWWC could not function without the generosity of its hundreds of volunteers, and we're blessed to count ourselves among them.

Coming Up: Winter Clothing Drive



You read that right: "Winter." Since Sounds won't publish again until October, please add to your calendars now the Winter Clothing Drive, which will begin on the Sunday marking the Feast of St. Francis on October 7 and run through All Saints' Sunday on November 4. Sponsored by the Parish Outreach Committee, this drive was so successful last year that we've expanded it slightly this year to include sweaters as well as outerwear. Details can wait (it is still summer for two more months!), but do note the dates as the school year begins.



And Ongoing: Hunger Fund of the Diocese of Washington

This 'welcome back' edition of Sounds seems an appropriate time for a reminder of why, on the second Sunday of each month, envelopes marked "Hunger Fund" appear in your service bulletins. They're intended quietly to prompt a donation, however small, to the Hunger Fund of the Diocese of Washington. The Hunger Fund Committee grants approximately \$50,000 annually to under-



funded organizations dedicated to the feeding of homeless and low-income families and individuals within our diocese, a number of which are based in Montgomery County. Grant monies may be spent only on food or the purchase of items directly related to food service: no funds may be used for gas, overhead, or salaries.

Although it is a standing committee of the Diocese, the Hunger Fund receives no line-item support from the diocesan budget, relying solely on support from participating parishes. St. Francis historically has led the diocese in this effort, and the need consistently outpaces incoming contributions. Please be as faithful as you can in returning those envelopes

continued on page 11

to good effect in recent years by many Episcopal parishes. The program is called RenewalWorks, and you can read about its details and how you can participate later in this issue of Sounds. I encourage all of you to take the survey when it becomes available in order to help our church leaders assess how best to deepen our common spiritual life.

The point, as ever, is to draw closer to Jesus. He wants to clothe us entirely in the new nature he won for us on Calvary. If we let him do that, we won't have to worry too much about being nice. The radiance of his mercy and truth will shine through us, and others will want to come and see about that new nature too.

-Father Mac Stewart

Confirmation Service 10 am November 3 National Cathedral

Please talk to Father Mark if you or your child would like to be confirmed. Those who will be confirmed will first have a confirmation class and a half day retreat to prepare for this faith milestone.

Do You Attend the 11:30am Service?

Please join us **August 26th**
after the 10am service.
We'll meet in the chapel
to discuss the fall service
schedule.

NEW(ISH) TO ST. FRANCIS?

Beginning in September, Fr. Mark and Fr. Mac will be offering a five-part course, "Life in the Spirit," designed for those interested in becoming members of St. Francis. There are three venues by which those who have been baptized elsewhere may become full members of St. Francis, Potomac Parish: Confirmation, Reception from the Roman Catholic, Orthodox or Anglican churches, or Transfer of existing membership in another Episcopal parish. Whether you're a teen or an adult, and even if your mind is not yet fully made up about becoming an official member on the rolls of this parish, please do plan to participate as we're certain the classes will help resolve any questions and enrich your worship here. Classes will meet in Kincaid Library at 10:30am and cover the following:

9/16: The Gospel and Creeds

9/23: The Word of God (the Bible)

9/30: The Sacramental Life (the Sacraments of the Church)

10/7: The Anglican Tradition

10/14: Life in Your Parish

Those preparing for confirmation or reception also will be required to attend "Boot Camp for the Soul," a half-day session of intensive teaching and reflective time focusing on Confirmation, the Gifts of the Spirit and Disciplines of Spiritual life. "Boot Camp" will be offered twice to accommodate individual schedules, on Saturday 9/22 and Saturday 10/13 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, with lunch following. For those becoming members by transfer, attendance is most welcome but not required.

Candidates will be presented for Confirmation or Reception at the Cathedral on the morning of Saturday November 3 at 10:00 am and recognized by the congregation during the 9:15 service on Sunday November 4; new members by transfer also will be recognized at that time.

If you are not certain of your status, or would like to talk further, please seek out Fr. Mark or Fr. Mac, or simply come along to the first session of this exploration of life in this denomination and parish.

Susan Dolan,
Vestry, Newcomer Incorporation



By The Grace of God - Faith Stories Among Us

"God is with me. I know it because things worked out. I prayed for Him to tell me what to do, and then tried my best to see His signs and follow His directions. Despite many barriers, all the complex pieces fell into place. One at a time, the hurdles were cleared - not perfectly but adequately - so that something that once seemed impossible was presented, almost so that I couldn't refuse. And now, here it is - God's plan. I can't wait to see what He has in store as I walk down this path on which he set me."

-S

We welcome your stories of grace and your stories of faith - be they God winks or miracles.
Please contact Karen Schneider if you have something to share.

Women of St. Francis

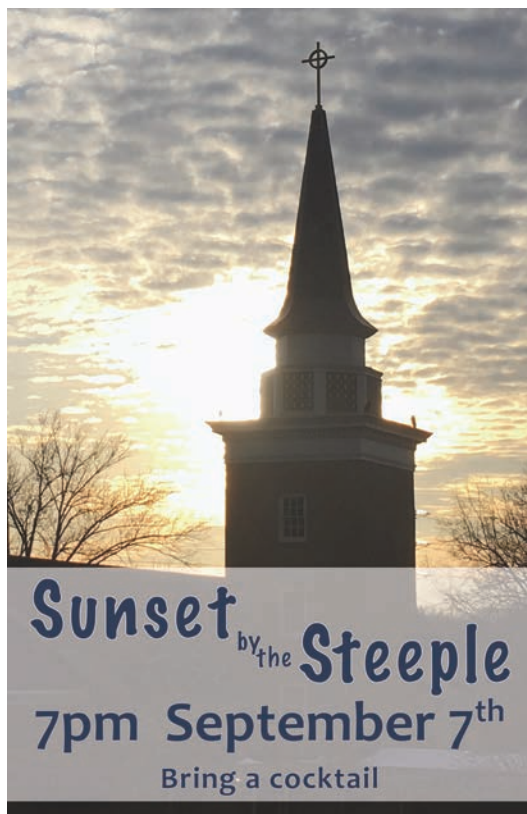
Carol Jarvis, president

The Women of St. Francis sponsor fellowship, fundraising, and fun events throughout the year.

Summer Potluck Dinners. Carol Jarvis' Seafood & Creative Veggie themed dinner on June 22 offered delicious food and engaging conversation. The camaraderie of Karen Brinkman, Fred Johnson, Keith Gardner, Father Mark, newcomers to SF Don Spence and Cindi Becker was encouraged by Carol's homemade sangria enjoyed on her screened in porch.

The Taco Bar Family Potluck on July 13th hosted by the Schneiders attracted more than 40 people, and kids and adults alike had a ball. Everyone feasted on the generous and delicious taco bar: beef, chicken, carnitas, dips, chips, salads, and more. Many yummy desserts included ice cream, cookies, and Kathy Hermann's to-die-for homemade peanut butter cups. A wide variety of drink options, from blue margaritas provided by the Moreys and Kathleen Alexander's golden margaritas to craft beers to soft drinks for the kids, kept everyone hydrated. While the adults mingled, the kids flew by on the zipline and slalomed through the crowd on bikes, scooters and skateboards. Lots of backyard fun and games kept the evening lively and fun. The dry beautiful weather was an added bonus in the midst of monsoon season here in Potomac.

Karen Brinkmann and Fred Johnson hosted a Spanish tapas potluck on August 11th. The menu included assorted olives and other marinated vegetables, garlic shrimp, goat-cheese stuffed peppers, white bean salad, smoked salmon, homemade hummus and flatbread, dates stuffed with almonds and bacon, Serrano ham, gazpacho, a variety of Spanish wines and sangria. There were 15 altogether, and everyone had a great time talking into the night.



Free Outdoor Movie
September 7th @ 8:00pm
All Are Invited!

Bring:

- chair/blanket
- snacks

we can't print the movie title, but we can tell you - just ask!

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Here are the dates and selections for the upcoming 2018 Women of St. Francis Book Club meetings, which are open to all. We generally meet at 11:30am on the first Tuesday of the month, with a few exceptions. Upcoming books:

September 11: *"The Hunger"* by Alma Katsu, 2018. Discussion led by the author, who is Margaret Riddle's cousin. Book Synopsis: The tragedy of the Donner Party is retold with a supernatural twist in *"The Hunger"*, a dark mix of historical fiction and horror. For context, in the May of 1846 a wagon train led by George Donner and James Reed set out from Independence, Missouri like so many other pioneer families hoping to settle a new life in California. Instead of following the typical route, however, the Donner Party opted to travel the new Hastings Cutoff, encountering poor terrain and other difficulties that slowed them down considerably, until they became trapped in heavy snowfall somewhere in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Many of the party died, and some of the survivors allegedly resorted to cannibalism to stay alive.



October 2: We will be reading *"The Tsar of Love and Techno"* by Anthony Marra. The discussion will be led by Louise G. Amazon Review: "This stunning, ex-

quisitely written collection introduces a cast of remarkable characters whose lives intersect in ways both life-affirming and heartbreaking. A 1930s Soviet censor painstakingly corrects offending photographs, deep underneath Leningrad, bewitched by the image of a disgraced prima ballerina. A chorus of women recount their stories and those of their grandmothers, former gulag prisoners who settled their Siberian mining town. Two pairs of brothers share a fierce, protective love. Young men across the former USSR face violence at home and in the military. And great sacrifices are made in the name of an oil landscape unremarkable except for the almost incomprehensibly peaceful past it depicts."

"Always Be Humble and Kind"
- Tim McGraw

to the offering plate or the office. Checks should be made out to St. Francis, with "Hunger Fund" noted in the memo line, and cash also is welcome. The Parish Outreach Committee is grateful for your support of this modest but effective mission.

- Susan Dolan, Parish Outreach Committee

Do you have a new email address? Do your kids? Please update your profiles in Realm so we have up to date contact information and so you don't miss anything!!

THE THEME FOR THE 2018-2019
PROGRAM YEAR AT ST. FRANCIS IS

Spiritual Renewal

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR

PARISH RETREAT

AUGUST 16 - 18 2019

FAITH AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Adult Education

Adult Forums and Sunday School resume on September 16th after the 9:15am service. To begin our program year, we have two concurrent adult forums. We hope you will find them engaging and enlightening.

Christianity in the Global South: We will explore the practice of Christianity in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the regions where our faith is growing most rapidly, and where it often seems to have the greatest vitality. Our region continues to grow in ethnic diversity, and learning more about global Christianity is also a way to grow in our understanding of our neighbors. We will explore issues like the way Christians read the Bible in the Global South, the role of miracles and spiritual gifts in Global South Christianity, the relationship between church and state in the Global South and the impact of the Global South on Western Christianity and the future of the Church. Guest speakers will include Philippe Nassif of In Defense of Christians, who will speak about the persecution of believers in the Middle East, Robert Heaney of Virginia Theological Seminary's Center for Anglican Communion Studies, who will speak about Anglicanism in the Global South and a panel of local lay Christians who have im-

migrated from the Global South who will talk about their experiences. This series will run for 8 weeks, from September 16th through November 11th. There will be no class on 10/21.

Life in the Spirit, a class for new members, includes 5 sessions that will be held September 16th through October 14th. The course will discuss the core beliefs and basic practices of the Christian faith, the Anglican tradition and life at Saint Francis. All those who wish to become members of St. Francis should take the class.

Additional half-days of reflection called "**Boot Camp for the Soul**" will be held on September 22nd or October 13th. Those who wish to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church (including youth) should attend one of these sessions.

We will present candidates for confirmation and reception at the Diocesan Confirmation Service in the National Cathedral on Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00am. We will also receive new members (those who are joining St. Francis by letter of transfer from other congregations) at the 9:15am Service on November 4th.



*Children Happy
with the
Knowledge of
God*

I can't wait for Sunday School to begin - It is just around the corner. The 2018-2019 Sunday School year begins SEPTEMBER 16th. YAY! Follow along with us this semester as we study the following:

children as they participated in a beautiful Thursday Evensong. Thank you Gary. Thank you Father Mark and Pastor Allison for leading us in opening prayers.

- Missy Beall

Moses' Birth and Calling (Exodus 2-3)
The Ten Plagues (Exodus 4-14)
The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:1-12, 16-20; 20:1-17)
The Tabernacle Was Built (Exodus 35:4-40:38)
God Called for Holy Living (Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4; 26:1-13)
Peter Visited Cornelius (Acts 10:1-43)
Paul Told About Jesus (Acts 16:11-15)
Paul and Silas Praised God (Acts 16:16-38)
Paul Traveled to Rome (Acts 27-28)
Unity in the Church (1 Corinthians 3; 12)
Paul Taught About Love (1 Corinthians 13)
The Ministry of a Believer (2 Corinthians 4:7-18; 5:16-21)
God's People Should Give (2 Corinthians 8-9)

Our annual **EVENING OF THE ARTS** will be early this year - on **October 7th**, we will mark our Patronal Feast with a beautiful Choral Evensong at 5:00pm immediately followed by our Evening of the Arts Reception featuring musical and dramatic selections, and an art gallery. All funds raised will benefit the work of Bishop Given Gaula in Kondo, Tanzania. **We invite all our Sunday School children to prepare music, poetry, drama or art for presentation to those attending the reception following the Evensong on October 7th.**

We had a great time at our early June **Vacation Bible School**. It would not have been possible without our youth who played special roles as Superheroes - Cammy Buckingham, Elizabeth Hough, Elizabeth Sefen, Caroline Schneider, Brooks Beall, and Caroline Beall.

Thank you to the adults who taught lessons, organized crafts and activities, fed us, and even dressed up as superheroes - Father Mac, Libby Rubin, Nancy Cressy, Karen Schneider, Tim Beall, Carol Jarvis, Norma Young, Susan Dolan, Carol Hansen, and Roy Day. Gary Davison prepared and led the adults and

Scenes from the Superhero VBS 2018





Kids' Corner

Do you ever feel jealous? Maybe other kids have something you want; maybe your brother is getting lots of presents because it is his birthday; maybe your friends are going on vacation and you aren't; maybe your sister got a new game that you wanted; or maybe your friend got some cool new shoes that you wish you had.

It's normal to feel jealous sometimes. To wish you had what other kids have, or to be able to do the things they are doing. It's easy to let that make you feel bad - sad, frustrated, even angry. But here's another way to look at it:

Remember that YOU GET ENOUGH! You get to do many fun things too. You get gifts for your birthday. You get new shoes when your feet grow. God gives you enough.

So, instead of being jealous, try instead to remember that you get enough. Then, you can be happy for your friends and siblings. Be glad that your brother got to celebrate his birthday, and remember your birthday party. Ask your friend about her vacation and tell her about the fun things you have done. Look forward to getting new shoes when you outgrow yours. Remembering that you get enough will help you to share in others' happiness instead of feeling jealous.

-KS

VBS Superheros: the Superhero Broadcasting Company taught students about the greatest superhero of all: Jesus!



St. Francis Episcopal Church



Georgetown Hill Early School will be our new long-term tenant, beginning in early summer of 2019. [Georgetown Hill Early School \(GHES\)](#) is an experienced, successful, family-owned operator of preschools in the area. They have been in business since 1980 and currently have 8 locations in Montgomery County serving more than 1200 students in preschool thru K, including before-school, after-school, holiday and vacation programs. They have impressed us with their professionalism and expertise in the preschool field, as well as their success and stability. Here are the major terms of our relationship with GHES:

Term: The lease term is 10 to 20 years, with a 10-year minimum and two 5-year options to renew. This long-term relationship establishes a solid and reliable foundation for church finances.

Rent: The new monthly rent is a significant increase over what we currently receive. As is common practice for commercial tenants, the rent builds up to the full level over three years. GHES additionally will pay 75% of our utilities, a substantially higher proportion than is the case at present. This includes electric, sewer, water and gas. GHES also will pay 75% of the cost of maintaining the church grounds, including janitorial, landscaping, solid waste disposal, recycling, and snow removal costs.

Parking: Similar to today, churchgoers will have the use of the parking lots on Sundays and Holidays, but during the school week certain areas have been set aside for pickup/drop off of students to mitigate any impact on neighboring properties. GHES and St. Francis will work together to accommodate occasional or extraordinary uses of the parking lots, such as monthly church group meetings, weddings, and funerals.

Signage: St. Francis retains significant editorial control, including number and placement, over GHES's signage, not only to avoid the current brand or identity confusion, but also for the proper administration of the church's overall mission, character, and reputation.

We are confident this will be a successful, mutually beneficial and long-term relationship. Please plan to come to a presentation on September 9th after the 9:15am service, where Peter Cromwell, the CEO of GHES, will make a short presentation about GHES and he and I will answer your questions.

Dexter Ewel,
Senior Warden

Holy Eucharist: 8am & 9:15am
Ice Cream Sundaes
Georgetown Hill Presentation

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes began as an outgrowth of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church's practice in the mid-1960s of providing meals after Sunday services. Members of the community started coming for meals. As the program grew, other churches stepped in to help, and now a partnership with 11 other churches as well as diverse foundations, community groups, and individuals sustains it.

The need for free meals is particularly acute on weekends when most free meal programs in Washington are closed.



For the poor and the homeless, finding the next meal is a seven-day-a-week challenge. Guest surveys last year and in previous years regularly show that most guests appreciate not only the food, which is generally

rated as high quality, but also the welcoming, calm surroundings, an opportunity to be off the streets for a while and perhaps have a game of spades or checkers while waiting for the meal. St. Francis has committed to help in months with a fifth Sunday. Here is the upcoming schedule:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| September 29, 30, 2018 | June 29, 30, 2019 |
| December 29, 30, 2018 | September 28, 29, 2019 |
| March 30, 31, 2019 | December 28, 29, 2019 |

On the last Saturday of July, a wonderful group of volunteers met at St. Francis kitchen to prepare the delicious casserole we are known for at St. Stephen! Thank you to Roy Day, Emilee Reynolds, Susan Dolan, Terri Vande Sande, Mary Sexton, Lynne Astrich, and Mary Bowers for coming together to prepare the lunch. On Sunday, Carol Thedford and Terri Vande Sande helped transport and serve the lunch at St. Stephen. For information and volunteer opportunities, please contact Laurel Bahar at laurelbahar@gmail.com or 301-318-4260. You can also contact Denize Williams directly at denize@loavesandfishesdc.org.

September 9th Renewal Sunday



RenewalWorks™

As you may know, St. Francis is beginning the RenewalWorks program this fall. Vestry members Clay Hough and Sandy Gaddy are heading this effort, which consists of a parish-wide survey to be taken in September followed by several workshops to discern next steps based on the survey data. All this work will generate a report which will then be shared with the parish. A team of parishioners have volunteered to help with the program and we are very grateful to them.

WHAT IS RENEWALWORKS?

A ministry of Forward Movement, RenewalWorks encourages churches to chart a course marked by deeper spiritual growth through a growing love of God and neighbor. When Jesus was asked what must be done to inherit eternal life, his answer was simple, even if it wasn't always easy. He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). The key to vitality in spiritual life has not changed, and it holds the key to changing our own lives, our churches, and our world.

The RenewalWorks program asks and leads us to begin to answer two questions: How can we move forward in changing times? What are we called to do, and to be? It offers a way for congregations to address these questions by remembering Jesus' basic teaching, reconnecting with a call to discipleship, focusing on growing hearts, and transforming the church, one person at a time.



PARISHIONER SURVEY

The process begins with an anonymous, confidential, and thought-provoking online survey called the Spiritual Life Inventory (SLI) which congregants are invited and encouraged to complete. The SLI explores participants' spiritual life and the church's role in supporting it. RenewalWorks then compares our survey data with data from more than ten years of research (aggregate data from 1,800 churches, including 500,000 congregants and 100+ Episcopal congregations, that reveal key characteristics and best practices of vital congregations). The SLI official launch date is September 16th and we will provide a link to the parish prior to that date. The SLI survey will take 30 minutes and will be available to the congregation over 3 weeks and 4 Sundays, closing midnight October 7. Let us know if you don't have access to a computer.

THE WORKSHOPS

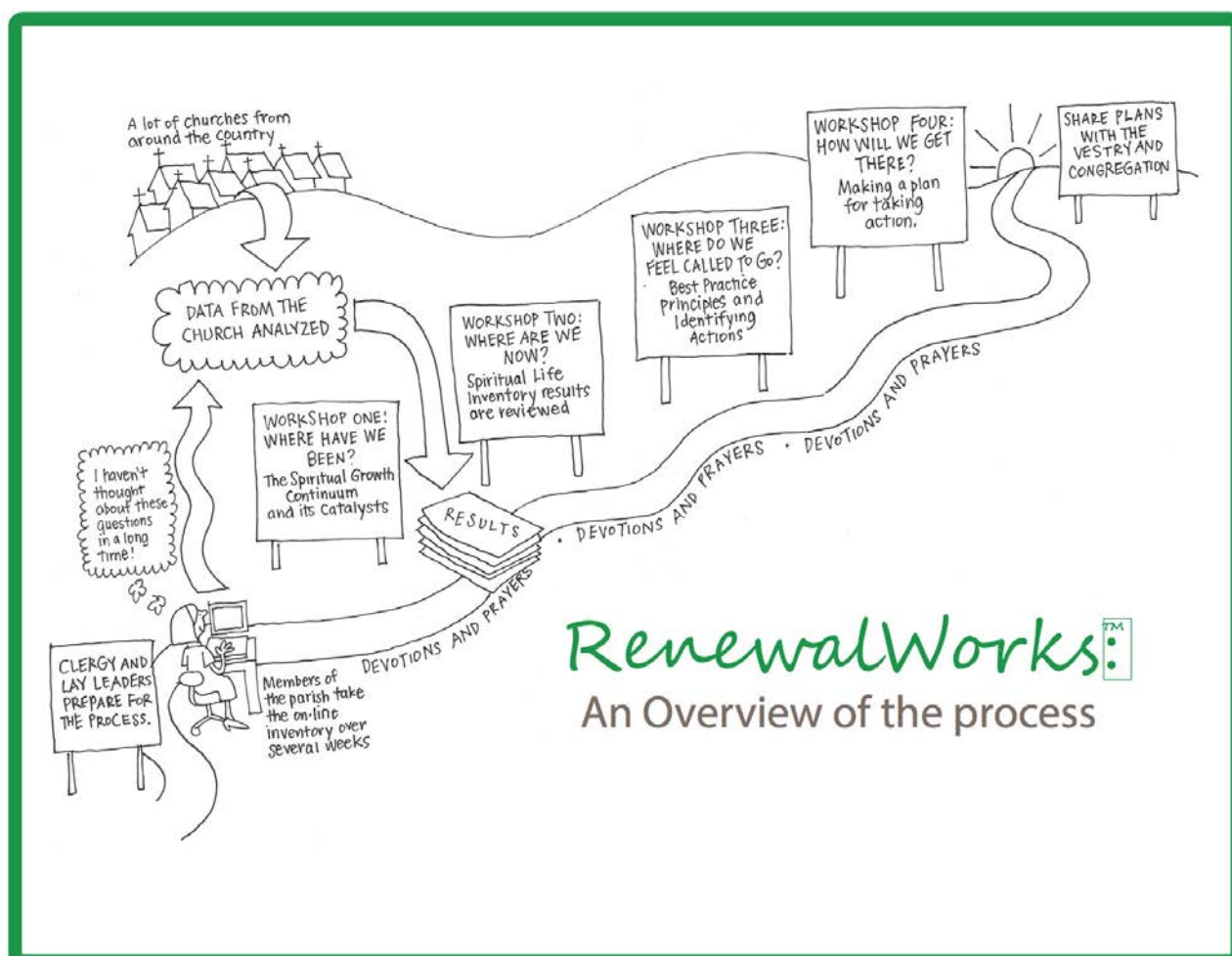
A workshop team will use our SLI findings to explore spiritual growth opportunities for St Francis. Using a guided methodology, the Workshop Team meets to consider research-based best practices and explore how those practices might take root in our congregation.

Workshop 1: Where have we been?

This workshop explores the spiritual journey. The spiritual continuum with its four distinct stages is described, along with the catalysts that get us moving toward a deeper spiritual life. These serve as a basis for understanding the inventory findings in upcoming workshops.

Workshop 2: Where are we now?

This workshop addresses the first half of the report from our SLI. The data is summarized several ways and bench-



marked against the more than 1,800 churches that have taken the survey. The resulting profile of our spiritual health and vitality provides a clear picture of where we are now as well as a baseline for planning future growth initiatives.

Workshop 3: Where do we feel called to go?

This workshop addresses the second half of the Spiritual Life Inventory report and best practice principles identified from aggregate data are discussed. The last phase of this intensive workshop is about imagining what our church could look like.

Workshop 4: How do we get there?

This workshop is about priorities and specific plans—both for the church and for the workshop team. It includes an opportunity for participants to reflect on the ways they hope to move forward in the spiritual journey. In the end, a clear plan and action steps should emerge, ready to share with the vestry and ultimately, the congregation. This planning is not so much about new programming or ministries as it is about a cultural shift that refocuses church life and ministry on spiritual growth.

We are excited about the Renewal Works program. We encourage everyone to complete a Spiritual Life Inventory which will be available starting September 16th. The higher the number of St. Francis parishioners completing the Spiritual Life Inventory the clearer picture we will have of the spiritual life at St. Francis.

- Clay Hough

Why I Give

When our family came to St. Francis in the mid 1970's, we knew that St. Francis was our church home almost immediately. Four generations of my family, my mother, Bill and I, our children and a grandson have benefited from the 'profit' that St. Francis has given us. I want to pay it forward and invest in the source of this profit. . . to help St. Francis grow, to 'go public' and minister to future generations so they too can benefit from all the blessings that we have received here at St. Francis. I am investing 30% of my estate in a legacy that will ensure the continuation of the source of this profit - our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The return on my investment will be the love and blessings felt by future generations at St. Francis, and their faith as they continue to spread God's word.

- Sue Tull

Periodic Financial Summary

Here is a summary of the church's current financial status. This does not include any details, and is not a complete picture of the year, but serves as a dashboard so you can see if we are on track.

As you can see from this chart, which includes data from January through July 2018, we had slightly higher than budgeted pledge income for the period, slightly lower than budgeted other income, and higher than budgeted expenses, which leaves us below budget for the period. Though we are below budget currently, the treasurer and vestry believe we are still in a good position for the year. We continue to work to stay within our budget for the rest the year. Please continue to make your pledges to help us keep on track.



| St. Francis Episcopal Church | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Financial Summary | | | |
| January through July 2018 | | | |
| | Actual | Budget | Difference |
| Pledge Receipts | \$459,376 | \$458,000 | \$1,376 |
| Other Income | \$128,466 | \$131,116 | (\$2,650) |
| Total Income | \$587,842 | \$589,116 | (\$1,274) |
| Expenses | \$588,285 | \$565,664 | (\$22,621) |
| Net Income | (\$443) | \$23,452 | (\$23,895) |

VOICE of the Vestry

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Among the items discussed at its June 19th meeting, those of immediate concern to the parish are summarized below.

Security Camera Installation

We received a bid of \$7625.97 by Clear Connection for the installation of a security entrance system at the main doors to the office and the entrance to St. Francis Hall. The system includes two cameras, two microphones and three video monitors that would be installed at the parish administrator's desk, the rector's desk and the business manager's desk. These allow one to view and speak with the person at the door and to unlock the door remotely. We began locking our doors about two years ago, at the request of SAES. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the installation of the security system that will be funded from the Capital Campaign account.

Outdoor Sign Update

An architect is working pro bono on the preliminary design of an electronic sign that will include a center brick or stone piece with our name on it approximately six feet wide, and two wings that will be approximately seven feet wide and feature the screens.

11:30 am Service in the Fall

Fr. Mark noted that attendance at this service has been declining since Easter Sunday, averaging 12 people per service. The Vestry shares Fr. Mark's concern that this sparsely-attended service is not a good introduction for newcomers. The Vestry discussed continuing to hold the service for those parishioners who are interested, but not advertise this service to the public. Ms. Baker suggested that a conversation with those who will be affected could be useful.

Vacation Bible School

Ms. Ford filed an electronic report about Missy Beall's summary of Vacation Bible School. There were 15 students, six teens that acted as superhero support, and 11 adults that participated in supporting roles. Two new families participated. What it means to be a superhero on Christ's team was communicated via questions posed by the Superhero news anchors and answers given by visiting capeless heroes.

Financial Report

Ms. Cuddapah stated that we have hit the summer slow down in pledge revenue versus budget YTD. Parishioners are encouraged to mail in pledge checks during the summer to help with cash flow.

Among the items discussed at its July 17th meeting, those of immediate concern to the parish are summarized below.

Glenolden House

We will be making an emergency replacement of the air conditioning system at Glenolden House, at a total cost of \$5390. Since the replacement is a capital expenditure, the Vestry voted unanimously to have the funds for the work come from the Capital Campaign rather than from the Property Maintenance budget which is already exhausted for the year.

Signage Update – Presentation

Karen Schneider, our Communications Director, and Joe Weber, of Shannon-Baum, a sign installer, presented materials showing options for an electronic sign at the corner of River and Counselman Roads. Mr. Weber stated that the LED portion of the sign is water-tight and will resist any possible vandalization. The sign will have a five-year warranty from Watchfire, the manufacturer, all of the LED parts are made in the U.S., and Watchfire keeps parts for 15 years (the typical lifespan of the signs), so any parts replacement is easily accomplished. The cost is approximately \$30,000-\$38,000 for a single-section, double-sided design that incorporates the LED portion into a brick monument. Afterward, the Vestry members went outside to the location where a sign would be placed. After extensive discussion, the Vestry voted unanimously to proceed with the design that incorporates the LED screen into a single-section monument.

Financial Report

Ms. Cuddapah stated that pledge income is improving, although still below budget by \$27,000. A large collection in the beginning of July is not yet reflected in the financial report. Again, we encourage parishioners to mail in pledge checks during the summer to help with cash flow. Ms. Cuddapah said that there were no extraordinary maintenance expenses in June, but repairs continue to be over budget and do not yet include the undercroft expenses. Overall, net income is \$53,000 under budget.

Portfolio Reports

On behalf of Mr. Hough, Fr. Mark reported that we have a committee of 12 people for the Renewal Works program for spiritual renewal of the parish. They will survey the entire parish about discernment. Mr. Alexander reported that the culmination of the Stewardship Campaign will be on October 21, and we will hold only two services on that Sunday, at 8 am and 10 am. Ms. Dolan reported that Fr. Mark and Fr. Mac will teach a Newcomers class on five consecutive Sundays, from September 16 through October 14. The class is open to all newcomers and required for those wishing to be confirmed, and suggested for newcomers wishing to transfer or be received into the parish.

Dexter Ewel,
Senior Warden

MEN AT (GOOD) WORK

Fishing trip big success!

The Men of St Francis fishing trip hit it big! Seven men sailed from Happy Harbor Marina in Deale, MD to the fishing grounds where our Capt., Billy Gee, felt confident we would find the stripers.



After a two hour scenic cruise north under the Bay bridge and beyond, we anchored near a small fleet of hopefuls on the eastern shore. Within one minute of casting a spinning rod with cut menhaden bait, Chris Rigaux hooked one and the fun began! Each fisherman caught 5 or 6 before having two “keepers” of between 19 and 25 inches. Within one hour we had our legal limit of two stripers per person.

We put away the rods, iced the catch and broke out our snacks, while Capt Billy cranked up the diesel. We headed south for the second scenic cruise of two hours duration. Lots of Chesapeake Bay ship traffic occupied our interest as we tried to guess their cargoes. Enroute our

mate cleaned and bagged the fillets for each of us. Then we adjourned to the dock restaurant for a shore dinner of Bay products. Afterwards our tired but happy gang of seven retraced our route back to Potomac to report our success in conquering the striper quarry! Plan to join us next year!

Greentree Shelter BBQ

Everyone deserves an Independence Day party--even if they are homeless. On Saturday, July 7th, the Men of St. Francis combined with our Youth Group to put on a barbecue and play sports with the residents of the National Center for Children, Youth, and Families (e.g., Greentree Shelter). The Greentree Shelter is the only one in Montgomery County that keeps families together in a homeless shelter. Seven Men of St. Francis chopped tomatoes and watermelon, grilled cheeseburgers and hotdogs, and served ice cream treats for dessert. The youth group, meanwhile, entertained the kids and adults by playing baseball, football, and bocce. Approximately 30 residents were in the shelter, ranging from young babies to adults. The hamburger meat and buns were supplied by Fred Rosenthal of Jasper's and Mondrake's restaurants; we all agreed it was some of the best beef we've eaten. We all had so much fun they invited us back to hold a school kickoff party in early September. Many thanks to Dexter Ewell, Ken Hurdle, Keith Gardiner, Adam Schneider, Leigh Alexander, and John Jasin of MSF. Also many thanks to Father Mac, Bryn, Valerie, Kate, Will, and Susan Dolan of the Youth Group.



Nationals Game

The Men of St. Francis partnered with the Youth Group and Sunday School to go to a Nats game! Though the game date changed due to a rain out, a group of St. Francis Nats fans went down to the ballpark to cheer on the home team. It was very hot, but our intrepid St. Francis fans found shady seats and the Nationals won!! Many thanks to Chris Rigaux for getting free tickets from the Nationals organization.



Oktoberfest

September 29th at 6pm is our annual Oktoberfest gathering. All men are invited and encouraged to join the fun on this traditionally rowdy evening of beer and brats. Dig up your best stein and bring it over to the church for an evening of fellowship with the Men of St. Francis. Enjoy traditional German fare (brats & slaw) and wet your whistle with beer.

The Men of St. Francis is an informal organization for all our church men, so males are automatically members!

Contact Devar Burbage, devarbur@yahoo.com for more information or with questions.

We are always happy to hear your suggestions for activities.

Fall Kick Off September 7th - 9th

Begin our program year with some fun!

A circular image showing a church steeple silhouetted against a sunset sky with clouds.

Sunset by the Steeple
(bring a cocktail)

September 7
7pm

A circular image with a dark blue background featuring a starry night sky and a silhouette of grass at the bottom.

Outdoor Movie

(bring chair & blanket)

September 7
8:15pm

A circular image showing a priest in vestments performing the Eucharist at an altar with a large pipe organ in the background.

Holy Eucharist

September 9
8am & 9:15am

A circular image showing a close-up of a chocolate ice cream scoop in a glass dish.

Ice Cream Social

September 9
10:30am

A circular image showing two young men playing kickball on a grassy field with trees in the background.

Youth Group Cookout & Kickball

September 9
6pm

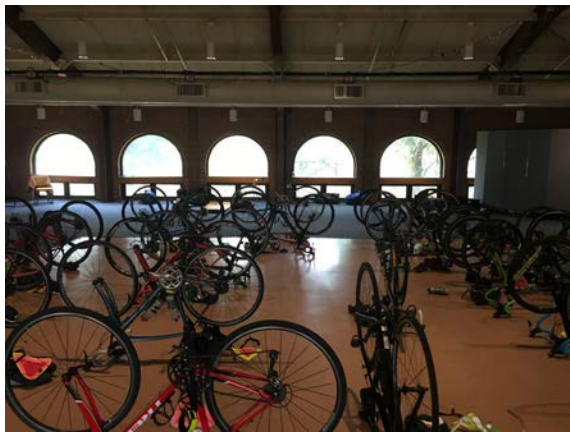
St. Francis has something for everyone.
Don't miss these great events!

News

The Journey of Hope Stops at St. Francis

The Journey of Hope is a ride across the country to raise money for those with disabilities. Father Mark's college fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, sponsors the project which raises significant funds each year. These riders came from all over the country, including CO, NC, IN, VA and CA. They left San Francisco 62 days prior, and we were the final stop of their journey, as two teams coming from two different parts of the country converged before they closed the event with a ride to the mall in DC.

The riders began arriving around 1pm and were all here by about 2. After lunch, a shower, and a short rest, they met to plan their final route into DC. Dinner arrived thanks to one of the riders' parents, and then the riders set up their air mattresses and settled down for the night. An early morning departure put them back on their bikes for the final 20 miles into DC. We thank you for your help greeting these men and preparing the hall for their night here at St. Francis.



Flower Dedications

We often have parishioners who donate flowers for specified Sunday services. If you would like to commemorate a special occasion, honor a loved one, remember one who has died, or give thanks for someone, please contact Shanti in the parish office. She will add your flower dedication to our calendar and make sure it is noted in the Sunday bulletin. The customary donation for flower dedications is \$75. You can pay by check or make an electronic donation through Realm. Just be sure to select the flower category when you make your gift.



Love God Neighbor

Parish Administrator: Shanti Nauau

Many of you have met Shanti, our new parish administrator. She has been doing a great job getting up to speed on everything St. Francis. Shanti is in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10am - 4pm. If you haven't already, please stop by to introduce yourself. She is eager to meet everyone, and happy to help.

Many thanks to Shanti, Lourdes, and Margaret for their hard work cleaning out the workroom - they put in many hours removing, moving, cleaning, and organizing. It looks great!



News

FROM THE SAVVY SENIORS COMMITTEE

Our next Savvy Seniors luncheon will be **Thursday September 20**. We hope you will join us as we launch the new season of the Savvy Seniors luncheon meetings.

Any and all interested persons (regardless of age!) are welcome for any of our presentations but particularly for this most interesting and informative one on “Bees”. We are fortunate that Pam Hepp has offered to share with us her extensive experiences in raising bees, and in dealing with the associated problems, particularly those of bee colony collapse. She will offer suggestions for us as to how to help with the problem. She is a highly knowledgeable and mesmerizing speaker and you will not want to miss her. For those who wish, bring a sandwich—drinks will be offered. A donation of five dollars is suggested. Please register through Realm or by calling the church office. We shall gather at 11:30 and the speaker will start at 12:15. For more information, contact Don Harrison or Nancy Hoke.

If you have suggestions for future topics or speakers, please contact Don Harrison at donh811@verizon.net.

ST. FRANCIS ON THE WEB

We now record audio and video of sermons given here at St. Francis. If you missed a Sunday, have a friend or family member with whom you would like to share a sermon, or just want to hear a sermon again, you can access them from YouTube or sermon.net.

Videos are available on our [YouTube](#) channel ‘St. Francis Episcopal Church Potomac MD.’ You can search for the channel from the YouTube home page. You can turn on the closed captioning feature if you like - it prints text of the sermon at the bottom of the page.

Audio-only recordings of sermons can also be accessed from [This Link to Sermon.net](https://stfrancisepiscopalpotomacmd.sermon.net) (<https://stfrancisepiscopalpotomacmd.sermon.net>).

We are currently building a new website, and plan to launch it this fall. It will be dynamic and engaging, and we hope it will help us better spread the word about all the wonderful programs and activities here at St. Francis. Stay tuned and be sure to check it out!

Congratulations to Kyle, grandson of Suzie & Devar Burbage, who’s soccer team won a National Championship! Kyle, 15, plays for ASA, an Arlington, VA soccer team. His team won the Virginia state title, thus qualifying for the Eastern Region Championship (consisting of 13 states). Undefeated in that tournament, they advanced to the National Championship which included 7 teams from all corners of the US. A goal by Kyle advanced his team to the final four, where they upset last year’s champion, a Texas home team with a big cheering section and cow bells ringing! A goal with 30 seconds remaining sealed the deal. In the final game, Kyle and his team faced a team from Raleigh, NC that had beat them earlier in the week. With skill, determination and patience, Kyle’s team held them off. At the end of regulation, the score was 0-0. Arlington scored in the first 15 minutes of overtime and then their defense held the line, withstanding 20 more minutes of shots pelting them from all directions for a 1-0 win. Needless to say Grandparents Suzie and Devar are very proud!

Are you new to St. Francis?

We’re very glad you are here! We look forward to getting to know you better, and we hope you will join us at our upcoming services and other parish activities. Most of our services and activities are listed here in this newsletter, but please visit our website to learn more about our church. Our weekly email announcements also provide timely reminders and updates.

Please share your contact information with us so we can give you a proper welcome. Visit our website to join our email list so you receive our weekly and monthly communications. In addition, please fill out the communication card in the pew or in your church bulletin, or simply call the office at 301-365-2055 to provide your contact information. Father Mark Michael, our newcomers committee, and our entire church family welcome you with open arms.

Sunday School Fundraiser for Kondoa, Tanzania

Several years ago, St Francis was blessed to have two different Tanzanian priests at different times attend our church as they were studying at nearby Virginia Seminary. While here, they made friends among the congregation and participated in some of our services. Each returned to his own diocese after completing course work at Virginia Seminary.

The first, James Almasi, was then elected bishop of his diocese, Masasi Diocese, and members of our church both individually and together with the Women of St. Francis and the Outreach Committee have helped Bishop Almasi with support for a boys' school and a community training program as well as his family needs including a means of transportation. Bishop Almasi and his diocese have been very grateful for our help over the years. We are thankful that in addition to a new relationship between the Masasi Diocese and the Diocese of Montreal, St. John's Olney has recently been helping James in his education efforts.



The second priest, Given Gaula, returned to Tanzania and almost immediately started a doctoral program in New Zealand. After finishing there with an emphasis on St Luke's missionary efforts, he returned home and was assigned as a new bishop to the Diocese of Kondoa, which is one of the poorest missionary dioceses in Tanzania. This is where he is still working today, trying to build up believers in Christ in spite of political and religious difficulties. Given has a program under way to train women from the local villages in the basics of reading and writing so that they may be better equipped to obtain jobs and to work with the education of their own families.

As you may remember, proceeds from last year's Evening of the Arts were donated to Bishop Gaula for use in his school and training program. This year, we will again donate proceeds from our Evening of the Arts to the Diocese of Kondoa. Please support the Sunday School children in their efforts to entertain you while simultaneously raising funds for the children and the people of Kondoa. We hope you will make it a point to come to this wonderful event and help support this important effort.

Parish Picnic

Despite a rainy day, we had a lovely time at the annual Parish Picnic on June 3rd. Special thanks to Barbara Heywood who spearheaded the picnic planning. Thanks also to the many hands who provided food, drinks, decorations, and games, and to all who helped to set up and clean up: Suzie Burbage, Ken Hurdle, John Jasin, Pat McNeilly, Rob Drucker, David Heywood, Laurel Bahar, Dexter Ewel, Chris Rigaux Father Mac, Erica McNeilly, Carol Thedford, and Kathy Barker. We had a thoroughly enjoyable lunch thanks to your hard work.



For those of you who might not know, there is a Grounds Committee at St. Francis whose mission under the direction of the Vestry is:

- Oversee landscape contractor's performance and the conditions of the grounds and suggest improvements of a routine nature.
- Oversee the development of long-term landscaping plans and suggest phased approach for plan implementation.

The committee also discusses and approves any proposed memorial plantings as a living gift that a parishioner may wish to make. There is an application form for a living gift of a memorial planting that has to be filled out and given to the committee for approval for acceptance of the gift. The form is available in the church office.

The grounds committee would also like to establish a group of parishioners who like to garden and would be willing to choose a small garden area on the grounds to garden and maintain. It could be one person or even two or three that would oversee the garden plot on a routine basis. The group would be known as The St. Francis Gardeners. If you would be interested in participating, please contact a member of the committee. The members of the committee are Laurel Bahar, Suzie Burbage, John Jasin, Lynn Reynolds, and chair, Don Harrison.

- Don Harrison & Suzie Burbage



YOUTH GROUP

MEETINGS: SUNDAYS AT 6:00 PM IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT.

ALL 7TH - 12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME!!



Summer jobs, camps, vacations, and other activities have certainly kept our youth busy over the past few months, but we've nevertheless been able to keep up at least a bit of a connection for those who have been in town with the ongoing life of the church. Our weekly Sunday gatherings, while seeing lighter attendance during these months, has provided a welcome place for the youth to share surprising, moving, and entertaining stories from their various summer endeavors before starting out on another week. And while our initial plan to see the Nationals play on a Saturday evening was thwarted by torrential rain, we wound up with nearly a full contingent for our 20 tickets to the rescheduled Tuesday, August 7th, afternoon game. Many thanks to Chris Rigaux for once again securing these complimentary tickets for our group.

Other summer news from the Youth Group: Although some last-minute conflicts ultimately precluded our youth from making the trip to West Virginia, their efforts last spring to raise funds for the impoverished residents of Cedar Grove did not go to waste. Parishioners' contributions from the pancake supper, bake sale, and car wash (which totaled close to \$2,000) went directly to the relief work done there in late June by a team of youth groups from all over the country. Thank you for generously contributing to that work.

In place of the mission trip, though, we have had a few opportunities for some outreach activities this summer a bit closer to home. On Saturday, July 7th, the youth teamed up with the Men of St. Francis to provide an Independence Day cookout for the residents of the Greentree Shelter. It was a lovely day, and we were able to enjoy some time in the sun together: soccer and baseball with the children of the residents (from toddlers to high school age), prayers and conversations with the adults, and burgers and watermelon with all. Many thanks to Chris Rigaux and all the Men of St. Francis for helping to coordinate this event, as well as to the residents and staff of Greentree Shelter for allowing us to visit. On the evening of Tuesday, August 14th we also served at the Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg, where we sorted non-perishable food items from huge reception bins to prepare them for distribution to people in the community.

Kick-off Kickball: Parents of the youth group, please mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 9th, 6-8pm** when we will kick off our fall activities with a cookout and kickball on the field behind the church (weather permitting). Both youth and their parents are encouraged to attend.

Blessings in Christ,
Fr. Mac Stewart

YOUTH GROUP Cookout & Kickball September 9 @ 6pm

Start the program year on the right foot!



BRING:

- ✓ Side Dish OR Dessert (burgers and hot dogs will be provided)
- ✓ Friends (welcome to join us throughout the year)
- ✓ Parents (please stay for the fun)
- ✓ Your favorite playlist
- ✓ Good sportsmanship

FUN

Meetings Start September 9th!!

Bring a friend and join the fun:
yummy food, games, small group discussions
and a judgement-free group.

JOIN US!!



Faces of St. Francis



Cheering on the Nats and Journey of Hope Cyclists in St. Francis Hall; Preparing and serving meals for Greentree Shelter and Interfaith Works Women's Center (IWWC)

Feasting and chatting at the Summer Potluck Dinners; The WSF Bookclub; Cheering on the Nationals!



Celebrations

Please congratulate these members of our church family as we celebrate with them



Happy Birthday



Congratulations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Leigh Alexander
Christian Andersen
Lyla Anzelone
Sydney Anzelone
Norman A. Barker
John Barpoulis
Nicholas Barpoulis
Caroline Beall
William A. Beresford
Jules Bernard
Andrew Blair
David Blair
Jeff Blehar
Elizabeth Boe
Cindy Boinis
Clark Boinis
Albert S. Bonner
Karen Brinkmann

Sally Brown
Cindy Buck
Beanie Burr
Corey Burr
Patrick Burr
Andrew Celi
Christopher Celi
Thomas Celi
Bill Charrier
Nancy Cressy
Bryan Crutchfield
Kathryn Cuddapah
Kendall Cummings
Susan Dolan
Faith R. Doody
Katherine Duncan
Carol Embrey
James Ertel
Jennifer Eusebio
Jovy Eusebio
Andre Gardiner
Josh Good
McLean M. Grant
Jack Gregory
John Hancock
Donald Harrison
Leslie Haymon
Lexi Heywood
Beth Higgins
Joan Irely
Ellie Jackson
Carol Jarvis
Marion Jasin
Matthew Jillings
Kathy Lavinder
Germaine Louis
Dan Lukash
Gwen Lukash
Matthew Lynch
Samuel Lynch
Sarah Lynch
Erik McNair
Brian McNeilly
Amy Micholas
Mike Micholas
Eleanor Minners
Nancy Mion
Joseph Moravec

Katie Morey
Shelley North
Andrew Nurse
Lauren Nurse
Sarah Olego
Lina Oleson
Jean Pagan-Bullock
Charles O. Perkins
Grace Polan
John Proffitt
Frederick S. Rolandi
Molly Rolandi
Jimmy Round
Herbert Schmitz
Herbert Schmitz
Joyce Schmitz
Russell Schofield
Diane Seward
Courtney Smith
H. Granville Smith
Ian Spence
Peg Stiles
Hal Stuart
Justin Stuart
Carol Thedford
Anthony Thompson
Jessie Thompson
Diana Tinkham
David Tozer
Ellen W. Tozer
Jeffrey Vande Sande
Michael Vincent
Kristen Ward
Alexandra Weinig
Mike Whatley
Christopher White
Thomas Whitlock
Allison Whittaker
Gary Widrick
Connie Wilkie
Janet Wilson
Cynthia Yavinsky
Jeffrey Young

CELEBRATIONS

Happy 57th Anniversary to Jim & Fran Baker!



Happy Anniversary



Celebrations

Best Wishes to Molly Widrick and Jordan Estrada who were married on July 20th.

Congratulations to Kyle (grandson of the Burbages) on his national soccer championship!

Congratulations to our new acolytes: Tommy, Elise, and Will!

Best Wishes to seniors, Bryn, Brooks, Kate, Maggie, & Clark as they head off to college.

We celebrate all students as they enter a new school year - may you be successful in all your school classes and activities.

Community Bulletin Board

❧ Come And See ❧



❧ Autumn Tea ❧

to benefit the
Episcopal Center for Children
5901 Utah Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20015

Sunday, September 16, 2018, 2-5 p.m.
\$20.00 donation requested.

Sponsored by the
Auxiliary Board of the Episcopal Center for Children

RSVP: 202-291-2125

Designed by
Barry E Huber Designs—2018

Lauren Heywood has been called as Pastor of St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. She will be ordained on Saturday, October 20 at 10:00am at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mayfair, Philadelphia (3101 Tyson Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149). All are welcome!



STEPPING STONES SHELTER
MOVING FAMILIES FORWARD

Please help us collect school supplies for families in need!

Help celebrate the beginning of the school year with Stepping Stones. Below is our school supply drive list to order from [Amazon](#), to be shipped directly to Stepping Stones. And don't forget to designate Stepping Stones Shelter as your charity of choice when using [Amazon Smile](#). Contact Jadelle at jadelle@steppingstonesshelter.org or (301) 251-0567 for more information.

Safeguarding God's Children

August 28th 9 - 12

St, John's, Norwood Parish 6701 Wisconsin Ave Chevy Chase, MD

August 28th 1-4

Ascension, Silver Spring 633 Sligo Ave Silver Spring, MD

Safeguarding God's Children provides participants with the information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and the ministries in which they serve.

REQUIRED TO ATTEND: All paid staff and any volunteers working with children & youth. This includes Christian Education leaders & Sunday school teachers who have not previously had training. Certificates good for 3 years and may be renewed online. Register at EDOW.org



IN-DEPTH TOUR

IN-DEPTH TOUR: THE 2011 EARTHQUAKE AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Thursday, August 23, 2018 | 2:00pm

As we continue restoration of the Cathedral's pinnacles and buttresses from the 2011 earthquake, we invite you to join us for an in-depth survey of the damage. You'll see the effects of the earthquake, and learn how artisans are working to restore the Cathedral to its original splendor.

Tell us about your group's upcoming events, and we'll include them here!



We are here for you!

Please stop by or reach out by phone or email. We're happy to help!

**10033 RIVER RD
POTOMAC, MD
20854**



Weekly Services

Holy Eucharist:

Sundays: 8am & 10am

Wednesdays at 10am

Morning Prayer:

Tu, Th, Fri at 9:30am

Evening Prayer:

Tu, Th, Fri at 5pm



301-365-2055

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

EMAIL US!

Rector: Mark Michael

mmichael@stfrancispotomac.org

Associate Rector: Mac Stewart

mstewart@stfrancispotomac.org

www.stfrancispotomac.org



Organist-Choirmaster: Gary Davison
gapada@aol.com

Christian Education: Missy Beall
missy@missybeall.com

Office Manager: Shanti Nanan
snanan@stfrancispotomac.org

Business Manager: Margaret Riddle
mriddle@stfrancispotomac.org

Communications Director:
Karen Schneider
kschneider@stfrancispotomac.org



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE