

SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS

St. Francis Episcopal Church
Potomac Parish

March 2018



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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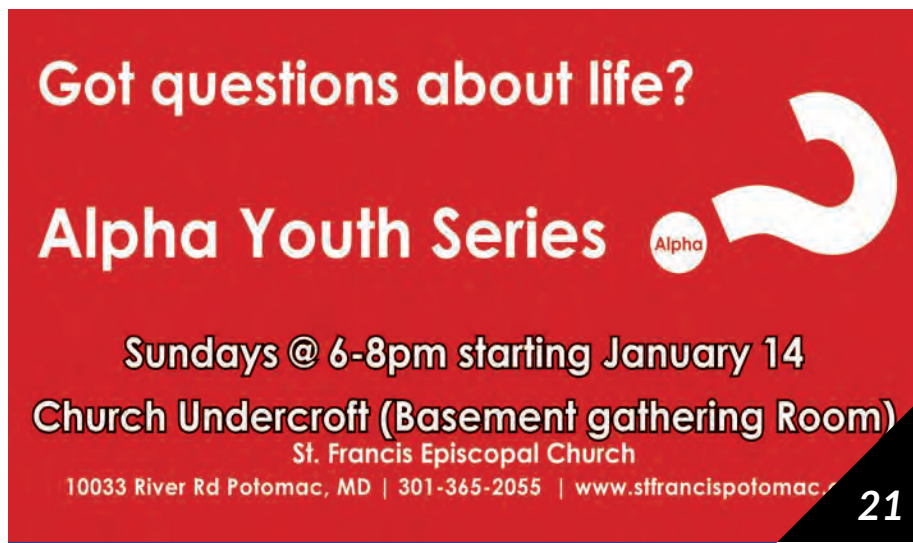
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Month-At-A-Glance

*Sunday Service Times: 8:00am, 9:15am, and 11:30am. Coffee & doughnuts after the 9:15 service.
Sunday School and Adult Forums begin at 10:30.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 3: Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging
March 11: Savvy Seniors Luncheon
March 11: Mid Lent Evensong & Dinner
March 15: Savvy Senior Luncheon
March 17: Lenten Quiet Day
March 17: Men of St. Francis St. Patrick's Day Dinner
March 20: Vestry Meeting
March 22: Egg Stuffing for Easter Egg Hunt
March 25: Gardening in the Columbarium
March 25: Palm Sunday
March 29: Maundy Thursday Supper & Service
March 30: Good Friday
March 31: Great Vigil of Easter at All Saints Chevy Chase
April 1: Easter Sunday

Weekly Events

Sundays at 8am, 9:15am, 11:30am: services
Sundays at 10:30am: Christian Education
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 10am: Morning Prayer
Thursdays at 6pm: Lenten Vespers
Thursdays at 7:30pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal
Fridays at 9:30am: Morning Prayer
Fridays at 5pm: Evening Prayer

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

April 1: Easter Egg Hunt
April 3: Book Club
April 14: Evening of the Arts
April 19: Savvy Seniors Cruise
May 6: WSF Paint In Party
May 19: MSF Fishing Trip

May 20: Evensong for the Feast of Pentecost
June 3: Annual Parish Picnic & Youth Sunday
June 11 - 15: Vacation Bible School
June 17 - 23: Youth Group Mission Trip



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: 8am, 9:15am, 11:30am
Monday - Wednesday: 7:30pm
Maundy Thursday: 7:30pm
Good Friday: 12 noon - 3pm Solemn Liturgy
7:30pm Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday: 9am
Easter Sunday: 8am, 9:15am, 11:30am

RISEN LORD

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
				9:30am - Friends of Great Falls 6pm - Lenten Vespers and Soup 7:30pm - Adult Choir	9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer	9:15am - Rise Against Hunger
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Holy Eucharist 10:30am - Sunday School @ 11:30am - Holy Eucharist @ St 6pm - Youth Alpha @ Church		9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 11am - WSF Book Club 5pm - Evening Prayer	10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room	10am - Morning Prayer @ Chapel 6pm - Lenten Vespers and Soup 7:30pm - Adult Choir	9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Holy Eucharist 10:30am - Sunday School @ 11:30am - Holy Eucharist @ St 5pm - Mid Lent Evensong & 6pm - Youth Alpha @ Church		9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5pm - Evening Prayer	10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room	10am - Inspection of Boiler @ 10am - Morning Prayer @ Chapel 11am - Savvy Seniors @ St. 6pm - Lenten Vespers and Soup 7:30pm - Adult Choir	9:30am - Morning Prayer 5pm - Evening Prayer	9am - Lenten Quiet Day 3pm - MSF Men Only St. Patrick's
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Holy Eucharist 10:30am - Sunday School @ 11:30am - Holy Eucharist @ St 6pm - Youth Alpha @ Church		9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Vestry Meeting @	10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 8pm - AA @ Youth Room	10am - Egg Stuffing Party 10am - Morning Prayer @ Chapel 6pm - Lenten Vespers and Soup 7:30pm - Adult Choir	9:30am - Morning Prayer 1pm - Staff meeting 5pm - Evening Prayer	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Palm Sunday 8am - Holy Eucharist 9:15am - Holy Eucharist 10:30am - Sunday School @ 11:30am - Holy Eucharist @ St 4pm - Mom's Prayer Group @ 6pm - Youth Alpha @ Church	7:30pm - Holy Monday Eucharist	9:30am - Morning Prayer @ 5pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Holy Tuesday Eucharist	10am - Holy Eucharist @ Chapel 11am - Rector's Bible Study @ 7:30pm - Holy Wednesday 8pm - AA @ Youth Room	Maundy Thursday 10am - Morning Prayer @ Chapel 7:30pm - Adult Choir 7:30pm - Maundy Thursday	Good Friday (regional holiday) 9:30am - Morning Prayer 12pm - Good Friday Service 5pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Stations of the Cross	Holy Saturday 9am - Holy Saturday Liturgy 7:30pm - Great Vigil of Easter at



FROM THE RECTOR

RECTOR'S *thoughts*

He is your friend and mine, who comes to dwell in us and to fill us with His life-giving Presence.

Where the White Light Flickers

The twentieth century English poet John Betjeman (1906-1984) is one my very favorite modern writers. Calling him modern, though, may be a bit of a misnomer, for his verses never ranked very highly among the literary establishment. He was far too traditional in his political and religious opinions and loathe to take himself too seriously. He also managed to write verses that ordinary people can understand (and often they even rhyme). He was very popular in his lifetime, and was even England's poet laureate for the last twelve years of his life.

Most of Betjeman's verses are about the English countryside, old buildings, social satire, and the Christian faith. He was a faithful Anglican, a warden of his parish church. His faith was awakened, like my own, as a young man in the pews of Pusey House, Oxford. He had a deep devotion to the church's liturgy and sacramental life, shaped by his time in that enchanting place. The transforming power of the Eucharist is an oft-repeated theme in his work.

One of my favorite Betjeman poems is *A Lincolnshire Church*. In the midst of describing a very ordinary building with a somewhat indifferent congregation, the author pauses to survey the tabernacle, the place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved:

*And there on the South aisle altar
Is the tabernacle of God.
There where the white light flickers
By the white and silver veil
A wafer dipped in a wine-drop
Is the Presence the angels hail,
Is God who created the Heavens
And the wide green marsh as well
Who sings in the sky with the skylark
Who calls in the evening bell,
Is God who prepared His coming
With fruit of the earth for his food
With stone for building His churches
And trees for making His rood.*

*There where the white light flickers,
Our Creator is with us yet,
To be worshipped by you and the woman
Of the slacks and the cigarette.*

The passage is classic Betjeman—the elegaic survey of rural beauty, the gentle humor, and the joyful trust in God, immense and gracious, who has given all this to us, and who has come to be with us in the gift of the Sacrament. There's no surprise when he ends the poem a few lines later:

*There where the white light flickers,
Here, where the rain descends,
The same mysterious Godhead
Is welcoming His friend.*

In a few months, the white light will also be flickering here at Saint Francis. A tabernacle, designed by our own David Tozer is being constructed to be placed in our own "South aisle altar"—in the Chapel, that is. Those of you who serve on the Altar Guild will know that the Blessed Sacrament has been reserved at Saint Francis for many years, in a cabinet in the Sacristy. The new tabernacle will allow Christ who comes to us in bread and wine to have a place at the heart of our common worship. A white candle will burn beside the tabernacle, a sign of Christ's Presence, and God will welcome all his friends to greet Him in prayer and praise.

We had hoped that the tabernacle would be finished by the beginning of Lent, but the church pew construction company has too many other orders to handle—which, in the wider perspective, must be a good thing. It will probably arrive sometime in May.

However, it seemed fitting to prepare for its coming by devoting some time this Lent to exploring the gift of the Eucharist. Our Sunday morning forum will discuss the way the Church's teaching and practice of the Eucharist developed over time: what Christ intended when he took up the bread and wine at the Last Supper; the way our worship was shaped by missionaries, persecution and imperial patronage; and countless reforms over the centuries that have aimed at bringing the Presence of Christ closer to His people.

On Thursday evenings we will explore a different devotional theme at the heart of the Eucharist each week: “the well of life,” “true bread from heaven,” “my flesh is food indeed,” “I will eat with him,” and “we are all partakers of one bread.” Psalms, Scripture texts, hymns and passages from Christian poets and theologians will throw light on these aspects of Christ’s Presence with us, and we will gather our prayers each week in a Litany of the Blessed Sacrament taken from the most recent edition of *The Saint Augustine’s Prayer Book*, a devotional companion to *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Finally, we will welcome Brother Thomas Piolata for a Lenten Quiet Day on March 17. Brother Tomie is a Capuchin friar, a delightful and wise young man who has answered God’s call to serve him as a follower of St. Francis. He is a classmate of Pastor Allison’s and Father Mac’s at Catholic University, where he is studying for his doctorate in historical theology. He will speak about the place of the Eucharist in the theology and spiritual vision of Saint Francis of Assisi, our patron. St. Francis had a deep devotion to Christ’s Presence in the Eucharist, which he linked closely to the Cross and the vocation to give his life in service to the poor. Brother Tomie will

unfold this for us, and ponder how St. Francis’ teaching can draw us closer to the same Lord who we worship with him.

I hope that in days to come you will find yourself drawn to that place “where the white light flickers,” but even more to the One who waits to meet you there. He is your friend and mine, who comes to dwell in us and to fill us with His life-giving Presence.

- Father Mark Michael

Found:

a brand new iPhone X blue leather phone case was found in the Undercroft parlor several days ago.

Please contact Tracy in the church office if it belongs to you.

Lenten Quiet Day

The Lenten Quiet Day offers time to step away from ordinary life and focus on resting and being with the Lord. Exploring the Eucharist with St. Francis of Assisi is the topic of our Lenten Quiet Day, which will be offered on Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 9:00 am to 1 pm and will be led by Brother Thomas Piolata, OFM Cap

The day begins with Morning Prayer in the chapel. The Quiet Day will include a series of talks, time for reflection and a simple lunch. Come and share this day of intentional silence, discussion, and worship. All are welcome.

Reaching Out

St. Francis in the community

Lenten Appeal 2018

All parishioners recently received a Lenten Appeal letter from the Parish Outreach Committee, asking for your generous financial support of St. Francis's longstanding Outreach ministry. The annual Lenten Appeal is the primary source of outreach funding for the parish. Over two dozen ministries locally and world-wide will benefit directly from the proceeds of the Appeal: the size of each grant the Outreach Committee will be able to offer depends entirely on your contributions.

We are grateful that Fr. Mark has encouraged us to deploy that venerable term, "almsgiving," to characterize the nature of the Appeal and its rightful place in Christian practice. Almsgiving is the material expression of benevolence, a concrete witness of Christian charity to the poor, the sick, the homeless and the hungry. Almsgiving, along with self-denial (fasting) and self-examination (prayer), has been a key practice and a Lenten discipline of the Church since its early inception. We invite you take it on as a discipline of your own this Lent, following Christ's exhortation to "do" to and for the least.

Please make checks payable to St. Francis, noting "Lenten Appeal" on the memo line, and return your donation by Easter Sunday, April 1. Return envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. With warm thanks on behalf of the many who will benefit, the Parish Outreach Committee and Vestry wish you a blessed and holy Lent.

St. Francis Week at Interfaith Works Women's Center: Thank You!

St. Francis has a strong outreach partnership with Interfaith Works, which operates several homeless shelters, a fee-less clothing and household goods 'store', coordinates emergency financial relief, social and medical services for its clients, and advocates tirelessly with local and state government on social welfare issues. For eighteen years now, either during or just prior to Lent, St. Francis parishioners have teamed up to provide a full week of breakfast foods, bagged lunches and nutritious hot dinners for 35 residents at its women's shelter in Rockville. Many have served there multiple times, bringing along friends from outside the parish, and each year some newcomers join the ranks.

Huge thanks and kudos to this year's caring culinary talent: Erica and Pat McNeilly, Leslie Bauer, Terri Vande Sande, Laurel Bahar, Kathy Barker, Barbara Moore, Dexter Ewel, Carly Erickson, Jenny Sefens and daughter Anna, Margaret Riddle, Sue Tendall, Diane Seward, Carol Thedford, Fan Oleson, Mary Blehar, Carol Jarvis, Suzie Burbage, Morgan Taverner, Andy Jordan, John Jasin, Keith Gardiner, Don and Liz Harrison, Fred Johnsen, Sandy Gaddy,



Pat Bernard, Karen Schneider, Susan Dolan and the Michael family (Fr. Mark, Pastor Allison, Philip and Peter). The menus were inventive, healthy, tasty and very much appreciated by residents and staff alike. Thanks also to the Flower Guild and Petal Pushers for supplying altar flowers to grace the serving table.

Like all non-profits, Interfaith Works could not provide comprehensive, integrated care without both financial support and massive in-kind support of donated food and hours. "You really outdid yourselves tonight!" or "You all are always smiling!", we'd hear; and, most frequently, "God bless you." The Parish Outreach Committee, WSF, MSF, Sunday School and Youth invite you to experience the privilege and rich fellowship serving others offers. Watch for outreach opportunities in Sounds and the weekly announcements. Coming up next.....



Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Day: Saturday, March 3

The competition was as intense as the flavors at the Chili Cook-Off on January 27! Organized by chairs Susan and Bill Weinig and sponsored by the Women of St. Francis, the contest attracted chili enthusiasts of all ages, raising approximately \$2,500 toward the purchase of dry components for 10,000 nutrient-dense RAH meals. Plan to be there for the second phase of this ambitious feeding project. as we pack all 10,000 of those meals in under two and a half hours. We need about 40 hands on deck from 9:15 till roughly noon to complete an impressively efficient marathon of measuring out and packing up vitamin and mineral rich ingredients: enriched rice, soy protein, dried vegetables and a flavoring mix providing 23 essential vitamins and micro-nutrients. Over 70% of meals provided are used in long-term programs for childhood education, vocational and agricultural training and medical clinics in underdeveloped and disaster-torn areas.

The meal packaging is a terrific multi-generational and community activity, so bring along family members young and old and friends. Imagine the sense of group accomplishment when we finish sealing up that last box! Sign up to help via Realm or contact Susan Weinig (Susan.weinig@gmail.com or 540-347-7076) or Bill Weining (wiweining@gmail.com or 301-717-8994). Thanks in advance to all willing workers.

-Susan Dolan

CHILI COOKOFF COMBATS WORLD HUNGER

Many thanks to Susan and Bill Weinig, who, along with the Women of St. Francis, coordinated the Rise Against Hunger project.

Three Potomac restaurants joined together with St. Francis Episcopal Church, Potomac Parish last month to raise funds to feed 10,000 people. Members of St. Francis organized a Chili Cookoff that featured more than 20 different kinds of chili prepared by parishioners and friends. Chris Benitez, Chef at Lock 72 Kitchen & Bar, Youlia Vellios, Owner of Tally Ho, and Sylvia Berman, Owner of Hunters' Bar & Grill served as celebrity judges to taste all the chilis and select a winner. Each chef also submitted a delicious chili of his or her own. They ranged from hot and spicy to vegetarian and really showed off each chef's signature style.

There were 23 chili entries, including "Vegelicious Vegan Va Va Voom" (eggplant), "I Ain't From Texas" (beef), "Sheep Date" (lamb, tomato, black bean, onion), "Land of Milk and Honey" (pumpkin, carrot, rutabaga, cocoa bean), and "Buck's" (venison). In addition to the celebrity judges' votes for the best chili, prizes were awarded for the most creative name as well as for people's choice. Delicious chili paired with cornbread, salad, and a magnificent dessert table, along with wine, beer, and soft drinks made for a soul-warming meal.

Drumroll, please...here are the winners:

Most Creative Name: *"Eleventh Plague"* (pork sausage, beef, bean, tomato, onion, garlic, spices) submitted by Henry & Margie Scott.

People's Choice: *"Texas Prison"* (beef, bacon, onion, garlic, chili powder, water) submitted by Dexter Ewel.

3rd Place Winner: *"Retreat No More"* (beef, kidney beans, tomato, pepper, onion, spices) submitted by Bill & Emily Weinig.

2nd Place Winner: *"The Eleventh Plague"* (pork sausage, beef, bean, tomato onion, garlic, spices) submitted by Henry and Margie Scott.

1st Place Winner: *"Councilman Bob's"* (meats, peppers, onion, garlic, mustard, beer, BBQ sauce, spices) submitted by Sue Tendall & Laura Hsiung.



This was a fun and delicious event for all involved, but the real winners are located worlds away from Potomac. The approximately \$2,500 in proceeds from the Chili Cookoff and supplemental funds contributed by the Women of St. Francis were used to purchase all the components for 10,000 healthy meals. St. Francis is partnering with Rise Against Hunger to package meals that will be sent to hungry people across the world. Rise Against Hunger is an organization dedicated to fighting world hunger. It distributes millions of meals annually to relief agencies in third-world and disaster-torn areas worldwide. Working through faith, corporate and school communities, it provides a blueprint for volunteer groups to successfully raise funds and organize labor to purchase and assemble for shipment the dry ingredients for nutrient-packed meals – all for 29 cents a meal.

Mark your calendars for part two of this program on March 3rd, when St. Francis parishioners and friends will come together to package 10,000 meals. Between 9:15am and 12pm, a small army of volunteers will put RAH'S well honed assembly line process into high gear. We need about 40 volunteers to help us as we measure and package for shipment the meal components.



Rise Against Hunger will then distribute these meals to hungry people across the world. We invite you to join us as we serve others in need. Contact Susan Weinig at (301) 706-4100 or susan.weinig@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.

**Together, we will feed
10,000 people!**

Gardening is Good For the Soul

Green thumb or not, please join the Grounds Committee as we tackle a very important project: the Columbarium.

Come join us on

Saturday, March 24
9:30-12:30 PM

for fellowship and gardening as we weed, trim and prune overgrown plant material, especially fall asters. Bring your garden gloves, pruners, rakes and shovels as we tidy up our Columbarium. Any level of expertise or interest is welcome. We will have an 'expert' or two on hand to help identify plants and guide with the pruning.

If you have an interest in taking home fall asters for your yard, please bring a box or container. Rain date: Saturday, April 14 from 9:30-12:30 PM.

Please contact Don Harrison with questions or interest: 301-424-0229 donh811@verizon.net.

Loaves and Fishes



Many of you may know that St. Francis has a commitment to Loaves and Fishes for the months that have a 5th Sunday. The Loaves and Fishes mission and goals are two-fold: to feed the hungry in our community

and to educate volunteers and community members about hunger and homelessness.

Please look at your calendar and mark these dates so you can be part of this very important ministry. Saturday involves food preparation from at 8:00 AM until 9:30 AM and Sunday involves food service starting at 10:00 AM until 1:00PM:

April 28 & 29, 2018
July 28 & 29, 2018
September 29 & 30, 2018
December 29 & 30, 2018
March 30 & 31, 2019

On the last Saturday of 2017, a wonderful group of volunteers braved the snow and met at St. Francis kitchen to prepare the delicious casserole. Thank you to Terri Vande Sande, Kathy Barker, Roy Day, Emilee Reynolds, and Susan Dolan for coming together to prepare the lunch. On Sunday, Fred Johnsen, Emilee Reynolds and Kathy Barker helped transport and serve the lunch at St. Stephen's.

For information and volunteer opportunities, please contact Laurel Bahar at laurelbahar@gmail.com or 301-318-4260.

FROM THE SAVVY SENIORS COMMITTEE

The Savvy Seniors' next meeting will be March 15th at 12pm. Our speaker will discuss the early history of Potomac Village, prior to 1880, when it was called "Offutt's Crossroads". Please bring a sandwich - we will provide drinks and snacks. We'd love to see you there.

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

This month, spend quiet time with the Lord

For your culinary enjoyment, here is the people's choice winning recipe from the Chili Cookoff:

“Texas Prison” Chili

1/4 pound bacon, chopped
3 medium onions, chopped
8 garlic cloves, minced
1/3 cup medium-hot chili powder*
1 tablespoon ground cumin
4 pounds boneless beef chuck, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
5 cups water
2 teaspoons dried oregano, crumbled
2 teaspoons salt, or to taste
1 tablespoon cornmeal

*Available at some specialty foods shops

In a large heavy kettle, cook the bacon over moderate heat, stirring, until it is crisp. Add the onions and the garlic, and cook, stirring, until the onions are softened.

Add the chili powder and the cumin and cook the mixture, stirring, for 30 seconds. Add the beef, the water, the oregano, and the salt, and simmer the mixture, uncovered, adding more water if necessary to keep the beef barely covered, for 2 to 2 1/2 hours, or until the beef is tender.

Stir in the cornmeal and simmer the chili, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes, or until it is thickened slightly. The chili may be made in advance and frozen or kept in the fridge for about 4 days (leave chili uncovered until it cools completely and then cover and chill).

Makes about 8 cups, serving 6.

Recipe by Dexter Ewel



Help Us Feed

10,000

Hungry People



MARCH 3

9:15AM - 12PM



10,000 MEALS
2 HOURS

"815 million people in the world don't get the food they need to live a healthy life."

- 2017 FAO Stats

St. Francis Episcopal Church

10033 River Rd Potomac, MD | 301-365-2055 | www.stfrancispotomac.org

Women of St. Francis

Carol Jarvis, president

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

The Women of St. Francis are always thinking ahead...here are highlights of upcoming events:

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Easter Sunday, after the 9:15am service. We hope you will bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and anyone else who is visiting. Children ages 12 and under are invited to bring a basket and search for eggs on the back field. We'll meet on the basketball court right after the 9:15am service. Volunteers are needed to prepare the eggs: we'll have an Egg Stuffing party in the church library on Thursday, March 22 at 10am. Come for coffee, conversation, and about an hour of candy stuffing. Donations of non-meltable candy and trinkets are welcome.



The summer pot luck dinners are back by popular demand.



We are starting to organize the dinners now, and are looking for families to host. Last year, the dinners were themed - picnic style, formal and informal, all offering a great opportunity for the St. Francis community to cultivate our fellowship. Jane Kirkhoff has once again volunteered to help coordinate these potlucks, so please let her know if you would like to host or help.

Karen Brinkmann had a great suggestion at our January coffee to form stronger relationships and give more support to the committed Christian mission work of Bishop James Almasi and Bishop Given Gaula in Africa. We have supported their work for several years now, through donations made by parishioners, the Women of St. Francis, and by the children of St. Francis through their Evening of the Arts programs. If you are interested in strengthening our African connections call Karen or Carol Jarvis.



Also beginning in March will be planning meetings for our May 6th (Sunday afternoon) 'Paint In Party'. I am forming the committee now - no art experience is necessary as you will be organized by a former art teacher! Let me know if you are interested in helping.



Stay tuned for more information about a field trip to the Lor-

ton Art Center this Spring. Laurel Bahar is organizing the trip, and it is sure to be a good time.

We also plan to have a lecture in early June with Rev. Ruth Everhart, minister of the Hermon Presbyterian Church in Carderock and author of *'Ruined'* and *'Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land.'* *'Ruined'* is a memoir "told with candor and unflinching honesty, an extraordinary emotional and spiritual journey that begins with an unspeakable act of violence but ends with tremendous healing and profound spiritual insights about faith, forgiveness, and the will of God" (from the author's website). In *'Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land'*, Everhard discusses how "a pilgrim explores this 'Land of the Holy One' with her whole body — she travels dusty roads, eats olives and hummus and ice cream, lights candles at ancient shrines, plunges into holy water, drinks wine and breaks bread, touches sacred stones, and sings at sites that hold the echoes of pilgrims past" (from the author's website). We'll provide more details soon.

- Carol Jarvis



Book Club Update: Mark Your Calendars

Below please find dates and selections for the upcoming 2018 Women of St. Francis Book Club meetings.

March 6 at 11:30am: *"Circling the Sun"* by Paula McLain, 2016. This historical novel chronicles the life of a fearless and captivating woman named Beryl Markham, an accomplished racehorse trainer and a record-setting aviator. The novel also details Markham's childhood in Kenya and her relationships with other well known British colonial expats including safari hunter Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, who as wrote the classic memoir *"Out of Africa"* under the pen name Isak Dinesen.

April 3: *"Barchester Towers"* by Anthony Trollope, 1857. Discussion led by Margo Warren.

May 1: *"Pachinko"* by Min Jin Lee, 2017. Discussion led by Kathleen Alexander.

We're happy to hear your suggestions for book selections, so please bring your ideas to the meeting or email Mary Blehar at blehar.mary@gmail.com.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday April 1st

After the 9:15am service
Basketball Court



**ST. FRANCIS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

10033 RIVER ROAD POTOMAC, MD 20854
301-365-2055

Bring a Basket

MUSIC NOTES

Mid-Lent Evensong

March 11th at 5pm

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH AT FIVE O'CLOCK FOR OUR NEXT MUSIC AT EVENTIDE EVENT, OUR POPULAR ANNUAL MID-LENT EVENSONG AND SUPPER WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT.

This year's supper and entertainment theme is Old New Mexico and will be a very family-friendly gathering. We will enjoy a catered supper from Anita's New Mexico Style Café, and conclude the evening with a reading of the charming and mysterious short story, "The Penitente Thief" from *New Mexican Triptych* by author Fray Angelico Chavez (1910-1996). The reading will be interspersed with a few songs particular to New Mexico. In addition, we will exhibit a few works of art by the native-born Santa Fe artist, Dolona Roberts (b. 1936). As some of you may know, Julie is a native of Santa Fe and her family were friends with both Fray Angelico and Ms Roberts.

As usual, there will be a freewill offering accepted at evensong, which is open to all. Reservations are required for the supper and entertainment; cost is \$15 per person and \$25 for a family (children are admitted free of charge). Please register through Realm or call the parish office at (301) 365-2055.

It promises to be a wonderful evening and I sincerely hope you will join us for this special occasion. Please consider inviting family and friends along. Childcare for infants and the very young will be available in the cribbery.

-Gary Davison, Organist & Choirmaster



Last Ceremony (acrylic on canvas)
Dolona Roberts (b. 1936)

THE PALMS OF PALM SUNDAY

Each year for many years at St. Francis, we receive small crosses woven from palm branches on Palm Sunday. Ever wondered why the crosses are offered, in lieu of the more familiar palm fronds, to commemorate Jesus' heralded entry into Jerusalem? Beyond their rich symbolism of His crucifixion and resurrection, the production and purchase of the palm crosses helps fund grants for humanitarian aid and infrastructure improvements in East Africa.

St. Francis purchases the crosses from African Palms USA, an outreach ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church in Olney. African Palms was founded in 1965 by an Anglican missionary in Tanzania, who encouraged villagers to turn a natural resources into a source of income through weaving the crosses to sell to churches for use on Palm Sunday. St. John's accepted the mission of distributing the crosses to churches, hospitals, prisons and Christian goods distributors. Residents of nine villages in the Masasi region of Tanzania (diocese of which former St. Francis seminarian James Almasi is now the bishop) harvest hand-weave the palms year-round. 100% of sales proceeds are used to fund micro-grants for humanitarian aid, agricultural and vocational training, education, improved water supply and health clinics, etc. throughout East Africa.

Receive your cross this Palm Sunday as a witness to this sustaining work and the One who oversees it.

Mid-Lent Choral Evensong & Supper Sunday, March 11th at 5pm

CELEBRATING OLD NEW MEXICO:
CATERED SUPPER BY ANITA'S NEW MEXICO CAFÉ
READING FROM FRAY ANGELICO CHAVEZ
MUSIC FROM THE SOUTHWEST
ART BY DOLONA ROBERTS



Last Ceremony (acrylic on canvas)
Dolona Roberts (b. 1936)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
\$15/PERSON \$25/FAMILY
CHILDREN ARE FREE

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
10033 RIVER RD POTOMAC, MD | WWW.STFRANCISPOTOMAC.ORG



*Children Happy
with the
Knowledge of
God*

ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL HOST A
FUNDRAISER FOR THE MISSION WORK OF
BISHOP GIVEN GAULA AND THE DIOCESE
OF KONDOA, TANZANIA

**Our annual Evening of the Arts program
will be April 14th at 6pm.** Please join
us for dinner with entertainment and
art provided by the St. Francis Sunday
School Children.

You can expect musical performanc-
es, poetry readings, an art gallery, and
maybe even baked goods that showcase
the talents of the children in our Sunday
School. Many of you know this already,
but for those of you who haven't yet
been to an Evening of the Arts, you will
be inspired by the wonderful talents of
the children of St. Francis.

Please join us to support their efforts,
and to help them to support the people
of the Diocese of Kondoa in Tanzania.
The children are very excited to do their
part to help the people of the Diocese
of Kondoa, and hope you will support
their special program.



SAVE THE DATE
EVENING OF THE ARTS
April 14th 6:00 P.M.

News from the Kondoa
Anglican Diocese
Jan 2018

Bishop Given says:
"We have had much rain,
In Kondoa no death have
been reported so far, but
other parts of Dodoma
four people have died. For
us as a Diocese we are
very much affected in
Itolwa, Mrijo, Changamka,

Mwaikisabe, Wisuzaje and
Mwailanje! Many people
have lost their houses and
other properties.

Please pray for our people
at this time. We need rain
but the proper rain!"

St. Francis Episcopal Church

VOICE of the Vestry

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Among the items discussed at its January meeting, those of immediate concern to the parish are summarized below. The Vestry focused much of its discussion in January on needed equipment replacement and repairs to the physical plant.

Church Organ Condition

Gary Davison reminded the Vestry that the parish's most valuable asset is the organ, worth approximately \$800,000. Unfortunately, the organ's age and recent extreme weather require the church to address the organ's condition very soon. Mr. Davison proposes the following immediate work: ceiling insulation of the swell chamber to stabilize the temperature and repair of the entry landing, and installation of an all-room humidification system on the HVAC system to maintain humidity at 40-45 percent. Mr. Davison stated that he would not advise conducting the repairs to our organ proposed by R. A. Daffer Church organs given its age, and that a new organ might cost in the neighborhood of one million dollars.

Hymn Boards

Installation of the new vertical speakers has necessitated relocating the hymn boards. Mr. Tozer presented a model for mounting them more forward on the side walls of the nave, angling slightly for improved legibility. Members agreed that the design is attractive and functional.

Church Door Repair

Mr. Tozer presented an estimate of \$5,500-\$6,000 to restore the main doors at the rear of the church, also restoring the high quality hardware and replacing the weather stripping.

HVAC System in Parish Building

Mr. Tozer, Fr. Mark, and Steve Wilson met with Jeff Dye of Bradleigh Mechanical, our heating and air conditioning service company. Mr. Dye believes we would see a considerable improvement in the heating and air conditioning of offices with thorough cleaning of the HVAC system. While a formal estimate has not yet been prepared, the approximate \$7000 cleaning cost will be far less than expensive than replacing the entire system.

Oil Tank Removal

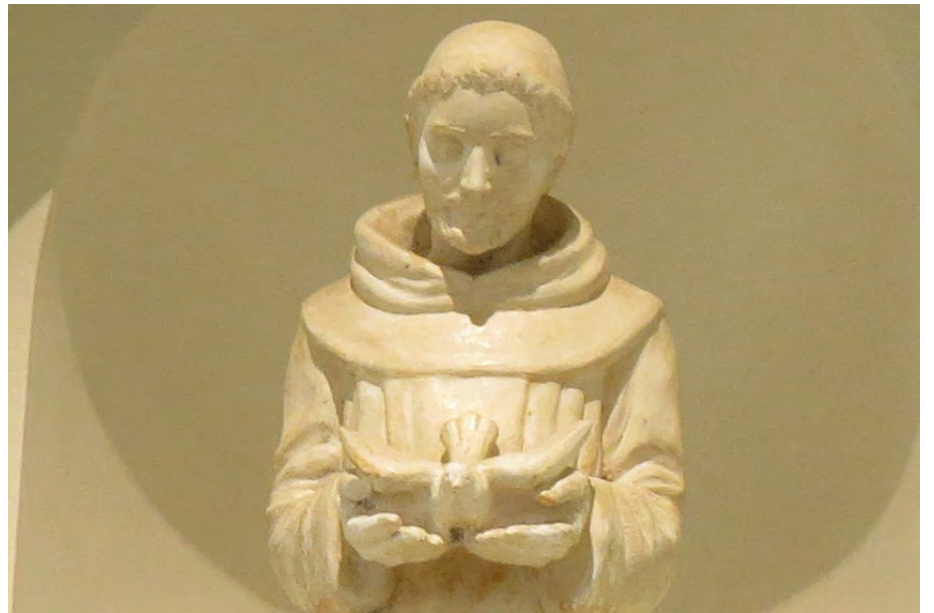
Mr. Harrison, Property Portfolio holder, received another letter from the state of Maryland because we have not yet removed or filled two out-of-use oil tanks buried on our campus. Mr. Harrison is coordinating with Mr. Wilson to resolve the issue.

Sexton

Edwin tendered his resignation effective March 31, 2018. We are meeting with outside cleaning companies to provide janitorial services. We would then use a handyman for ad hoc repair work and, on occasion, ask parishioners to participate

in a clean-up day and/or other miscellaneous tasks.

- Dexter Ewel, Senior Warden



Lenten Vespers

Please join us for Lenten Vespers and Simple Suppers on Thursdays in Lent. Evening Prayer begins at 6pm with a simple soup supper afterward. This is a lovely way to end your day: a quiet prayer service and supper with your St. Francis family.

The soup is delicious and the company engaging. Won't you join us?

If you would like to prepare soup for one of the suppers, please let Kathy Barker know.

"There are stars
among us"

Parishioner Profile

"Everyone has a
story to tell if you
simply listen"

Julie was born and raised in Santa Fe, NM. Her father was a professor of Business Administration and Accounting at the College of Santa Fe. After his untimely death, her mother



went to work for the Girl Scouts of America. Julie's brother graduated with a degree in Moving Image Arts from the College of Santa Fe, and he still lives in the area. He is a stone mason and manages greens crews for movies and shows that are filmed in the region, including *True Grit*, *Manhattan*, and *Breaking Bad*.

As a child Julie enjoyed living in the mountains, spending time riding her bike, playing with her dog, skiing, studying ballet, and listening to records! Her deep love of music was shared with her beloved grandmother, whose mother had been a piano teacher. Her great-aunt had a baby grand piano; her grandmother played it at family gatherings, and invited Julie to sit right next to her on the bench and watch. Julie studied piano for 11 years, and is a proficient player. She now happily owns that instrument.

It could be said that Julie's singing career began in pre-K. Her mom might have disputed that claim, though, since she was chagrined when Julie didn't stand up with the rest of the class during their Christmas concert; she sang from the floor. "I just didn't feel like standing up" she told her mom. She attended a small private French kindergarten where she loved learning songs in French.

She became interested in theatre starting in 6th grade when her school put on the musical, *"Tom Sawyer"*. Her next play was a production of *"The Hobbit"*, and Julie played one of the many dwarves. Her father was so proud that he drove back home to get the camera he had forgotten to bring. When he finally sat down and aimed his camera for the winning shot, he realized that he couldn't tell which little person was Julie. The producers decided that the little girls were "too pretty" and added beards to their costumes at the last minute. When they made their entrance, they were indistinguishable. Poor Daddy was flummoxed.

All throughout high school Julie was very involved in musical theatre, performing in 14 shows at school, local theatres, and the College of Santa Fe. After mostly being in the chorus, in her senior year she was delighted to have two lead roles: Little Mary in *"Little Mary Sunshine"* at a local theatre, and Lili in *Carnival* at her school.

After high school, Julie received academic and music scholarships to Trinity University in San Antonio. She began as an aerospace engineering major but she continued piano lessons and began studying voice with a wonderful teacher who took a great interest in her. Julie eventually switched to a music major after her sophomore year and earned her BA in music, and went on to earn a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Southern Methodist University. She remained in Dallas for three years after graduation, where she sang in the Dallas Opera Chorus and worked on the music staff at Highland Park United Methodist Church. (A young musician named Gary grew up in that parish.)



Julie then moved to Philadelphia to pursue an Artist Diploma in Opera from Temple University. During her studies, she sang the lead roles Eurydice in *Orpheé et Eurydice* and Blanche in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* by French composer, Francis Poulenc. That music was particularly meaningful for her because her first voice teacher had worked with Poulenc.

After Julie's time in Philadelphia, she moved to New York where she and Gary were married. Julie & Gary then moved to the Washington, DC area when Gary began his time here at St. Francis. Since then, Julie has focused her musical performance on oratorio and recitals, and contemporary vocal chamber music ensembles such as The Desert Chorale in Santa Fe, Spire in Kansas City, and Austin-based Conspirare, which won a Grammy award for Best Choral Performance in 2014 for *The Sacred Spirit of Russia*, sung entirely in Slavonic. For fun, Julie enjoys road cycling. She averages about 50

miles a week in winter, and more in summer. She enjoys riding with several groups in the area to locations such as Mt. Vernon, along the tow path, around Leesburg, VA and St. Michael's, MD. She is currently training for a fundraiser, the Hill Country Ride in Austin, TX, which she will do at the end of April. Julie also practices yoga to cultivate strength, flexibility and breath control, which are very beneficial in riding and also in singing.



Ever since learning about basic aerodynamics and building a balsa wood glider in school as a young girl, Julie has been fascinated by airplanes. That is what inspired her original major of aerospace engineering. These days, Julie is fueling her passion for planes by taking flying lessons. She began with a pinch hitter program at the Frederick airport in 2015, where she learned to 'pinch hit' if a pilot was unable to complete a flight. Julie flies Cessna 172s and is only a few hours away from her first solo flight, which she hopes to complete this summer.

- Karen Schneider & Gary Davison



High School Seniors:

We plan to feature you in our June Parishioner Profile section. Please stay tuned for details. Parents - we need your help with the profiles, so please reach out to Karen for more information.

Easter Memorials

Each year at Eastertide, the St. Francis Flower Guild decorates the sanctuary with beautiful flowers and plants. This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 1. If you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of these flowers and plants, please complete an Easter Day Memorial form, located on the table in the lobby of the Parish Office. The suggested donation is \$30.

Flowers can be designated in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving, and/or in celebration of any memorable event during the past year, or simply to the glory of God.

Completed forms must be received in the church office by Tuesday, March 27. Please make checks payable to St. Francis Episcopal Church, and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line. Place forms in Tracy's mailbox, or send her an email at tholmes@stfrancispotomac.org

Thank you!
Debra Byam & Sue Tendall



Calling All Men of St. Francis

Join us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with an authentic Irish dinner. We will be dining on Saturday, March 17, from 6 to 8:30 pm.

Menu

Corned Beef

Irish Stew

Salad

Delicious breads of various types

A selection of desserts

Guinness Draught Beer

Harp Beer

Irish Whiskey

Please join us. The cost is \$20.





Are you new to St. Francis?

We're 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.

Please share your contact information with us so we can give you a proper welcome and include you in our weekly and monthly communications. You can fill out the communication card in the pew or in your church bulletin, or you may call the office at 301-365-2055. Father Mark Michael, our newcomers committee and our entire church family welcome you with open arms.



A Piece of St. Francis Goes To Africa

Many of you know Matilda, Roy Day's caretaker. She does a wonderful job caring for Roy, and sometimes comes to St. Francis services and events. Roy Day submitted the following article about Matilda's generosity toward her family and friends back home in Sierra Leone.

For many years, Matilda Koroma, my aide, has sent shipments of clothing, medications, dry food and other necessities back to those in need in Sierra Leone. She collects these items over the year and ships a couple of barrels/boxes in time to arrive in Africa for Christmas, at her expense. Although Matilda is not a member of St. Francis, she has worked with Carol Jarvis at the Thrift Sale along with the women of St. Francis for several years. During the sale, she also purchases items and by the generosity of St. Francis, she is allowed to select other items free when the sale is over. All of these items she ships "home." This photo, taken recently, shows some children opening their "Christmas box". So, as my mother used to say, "A little generosity goes a long way."

-Roy Day



YOUTH GROUP

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

ALL 7TH - 12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME!!



The Youth Group is off to a great start in 2018. On January 14th we began our Youth Alpha program on Sunday evenings. We meet from 6-8pm in the newly renovated undercroft, which has so far worked very well as a space to gather for food, fellowship, and rich conversation. The Women of St. Francis have stepped up in a marvelous way to provide us with nourishing and delicious meals each week, and have also helped to make our gathering time and space as comfortable as can be by providing new fun and easily storable chairs for the group. The Alpha program has also provided a very effective series of videos that have sparked some excellent conversations. We often have enough participants to break up into two small groups (one for middle school and one for high school students), which gives everyone more of a chance to share their thoughts and questions. Many thanks to everyone in the parish who has helped facilitate this new format for our weekly youth meetings.

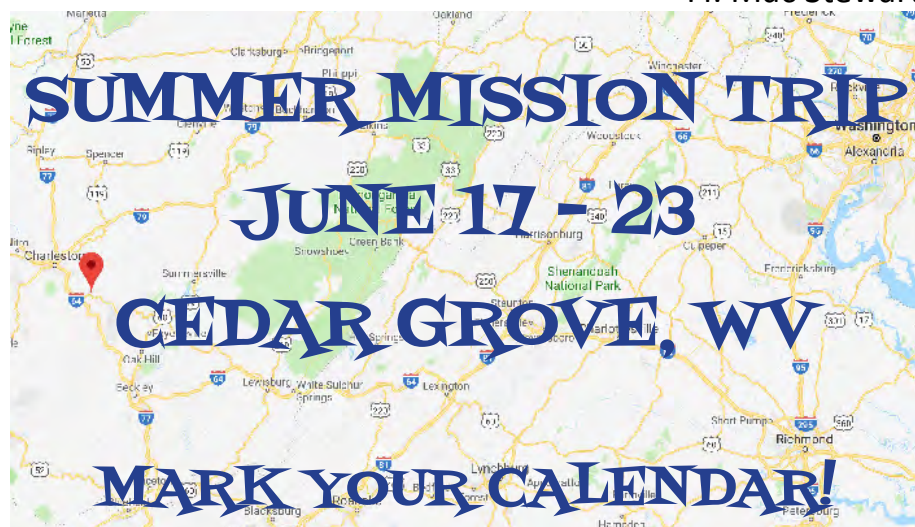
We're well underway in our planning for the Mission Trip this summer. We'll be travelling to Cedar Grove, WV, June 17th-23rd with Group Mission Trips to help renovate houses and participate in the group's Christian formation and fellowship programs. There is certainly still space, and all youth ages 12-18 are warmly welcome to join us.

We had our first fundraiser for the Mission Trip on February 13th with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It was a wonderful evening with a delicious dinner of pancakes, sausage, and many very creative pancake toppings. This dinner would not have happened without the generous and diligent help of so many of you. Thanks are due in particular to Dexter Ewel for coordinating the cooking efforts, to Karen Schneider and Susan Dolan for facilitating set-up and decorations, and to Fred Johnsen, John Jasin, Clay Hough, Rob Drucker, Carol Jarvis, Betsey Drucker, Jenny Sefen, Jane Kirkhoff, Chris Nurse, Lexi Heywood, and Andrew Gilmour for cooking, cleaning, receiving donations, and attending to various other odds and ends for the evening. Many thanks to each of our youth, also, for arriving early to decorate and prepare, for serving tables with enthusiasm, and helping with clean-up. Caroline Schneider, Cammy Buckingham, and Elizabeth Hough offered a splendid presentation about their experiences on the Mission Trip last year, how it has shaped them and how they recognized God's hand in the work they did and God's face in the people they served. Stay tuned for further fundraisers for the Mission Trip in the coming months (e.g., a carwash!).



**It Takes A Village.
Are You In?**

Blessings in Christ,
Fr. Mac Stewart



Got questions about life?

Alpha Youth Series



Sundays @ 6-8pm starting January 14

Church Undercroft (Basement gathering Room)
St. Francis Episcopal Church

10033 River Rd Potomac, MD | 301-365-2055 | www.stfrancispotomac.org

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

During the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Youth Group served pancakes to raise money for their mission trip this summer. Many Thanks to the wonderful crew that helped with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Susan Dolan, Karen Schneider, Carol Jarvis, Betsey Drucker, Jane Kirkhoff, Jenny Sefen, Dexter, Fred Johnsen, John Jasin, Chris Nurse, Andrew Gilmour, Clay Hough, & Rob Drucker. Many thanks to the youth group for their help decorating the room, setting the tables, serving the parishioners, clearing the tables, and cleaning up the room at the end of the night. Your hard work definitely earned the approximately \$300 in donations toward the mission trip. Thanks also to those of you who pitched in at the end to clear and put away tables. During the evening, Cammy Buckingham, Elizabeth Hough, and Caroline Schneider spoke about their experiences on last year's mission trip. Cammy Buckingham also created a fun slideshow of photos from the trip. For those of you who missed this spirited event, here is a recap of their presentations.

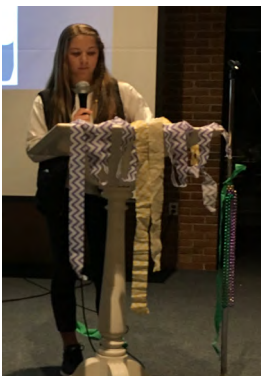


Cammy Buckingham: Mission trips offer a relief from all the hometown drama, social media, family and put you into a completely new environment. They allow you to have a safe space and really let you delve into your relationship with God. You further relationships with God and your friends and start new ones with friends around you. Last year in Greenville was really special for me. I got to bring home my dog Bradley. He reminds me of God's work every day, and I'm so grateful to have him. And I'm also thankful to have the opportunity to go on mission trips, so thank you for letting us do so. Your donations in support, prayer and financially mean so much to me. So thank you for them!

Elizabeth Hough: I have gone on three mission trips in the past, and this one was by far my favorite one. I made so many new friends and memories. I was assigned a house with Summer and Morgan. We worked on building a ramp for the husband, who was paralyzed. He had a heart attack and cancer and could not get around. I loved spending time with the family and the group I was in, and getting to know God more. By the end of the week, we had our own individual prayers in which the group leaders washed our feet and prayed for us, focusing on our personal needs and on giving us guidance. It was really sweet. It was a very memorable week and I will never forget it.



Caroline Schneider: Hi everyone, if you don't know me my name is Caroline. This past summer I went on the mission trip to Greenville South Carolina and it was one of the best experiences I have ever had. To get to South Carolina, we drove for about 8 hours and we stayed in a big youth house. We got split up into groups with other kids from Ohio and Pittsburg, and one or two adults. I was put with Meti, three boys from Pittsburg, Mrs. Hurdle, and one of the dads from Pittsburg. We all went to sites around Greenville and my group was put at a house with a wonderful lady named Annie. She was so kind and I did not realize how strong she was until she told us her story. Her son, husband, and parents all died of a disease and she had to bring up her three remaining kids by herself. One son has mental issues, and her other kids live in Florida. She also had nerve issues, heart surgery, heart issues, and other health complications she had to deal with alone. She had all of this on top of barely having enough money to get food on a daily basis. She also told us that she made food and brought it to her neighbors so that they could have lunch every day, even if that meant not being able to eat herself. She sacrificed her food and money for others when she had barely anything.



Throughout the week, my group and I fixed up her house and talked to her. It was so rewarding seeing her house looking better every day and accomplishing our goals. At the end of the week, she had a beautiful new bathroom and bedroom. It felt so great to see her excited and happy with how her house turned out and it gave everyone on the site a sense of accomplishment and gratitude for the opportunity.

Another part of the trip that stood out to me was one night when we had our nightly chapel service in the youth house. It was towards the end of our trip and our youth group gathered together in a circle and we washed each other's feet. The leaders from our group washed the kids' feet and then said a prayer with them. We all lay together on the floor and cried. I don't know exactly why we cried but I think that it was the emotion and love that hit us that night that changed our hearts. We just lay there together for a long time, I don't know exactly how long, but I remember that it was dark and I was with some of my favorite people in the world.

This trip taught me so much about myself, my love for God, and how to appreciate your life. I learned some useful construction, I learned that Annie is an amazingly strong and kind woman, I learned that helping people is one of the best things you can do to be happy, and I felt how strong God's love for us is and how much we should appreciate those around us. I am proud to say that on this trip we met many awesome people from other states, gave deserving people new floors and bathrooms, experienced God and his love for us, and rescued three puppies along the way. So I end with this: If you are someone thinking about going on the trip, please please do it. Thank you!

Easter + + + Treats

The Youth Group is here to help you prepare for Easter! They are offering two opportunities to help make your Easter easy and extra special this year. All proceeds will go toward youth group mission trip expenses. We hope you will purchase your Easter dessert and Easter baskets from the youth group this year.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale:

The youth group will be selling beautiful desserts for your Easter gathering. Whole pies and cakes will be available, as well as smaller treats such as brownies and cookies. Purchase your dessert on Palm Sunday and freeze or refrigerate until Easter. On March 25th, please visit the bake sale in St. Francis hall during the coffee hour after the 9:15 am service.

Donations will be accepted for each treat and dessert.



Mission trips make a huge difference in the lives of those served as well as those serving. Youth missionaries, in their own words (from groupmissiontrips.com):

"That week, God showed us that the little acts of kindness that we do sometimes help others more than we expect."

"It was then, as well as a lot more times throughout the week, that I knew that He was really here."

"It made me renew my faith in humanity; despite the sins in this world, hope still exists."

"I started opening my eyes and searching for God instead of waiting for him to come to me. I even started my own God sightings journal that I write in every day."

"Ever since, I am able to see God through people, whether it's people I meet or people I see every day... It's amazing how the littlest things could be a message from God."

Easter Baskets are Back!

Order your Easter basket from the Youth Group!

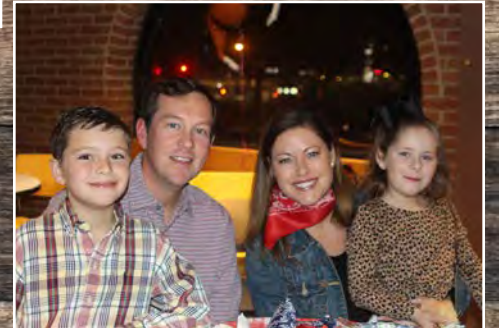
Each basket will be filled with yummy baked goods, candy, Easter trinkets, and specialty items. If you order in advance, you can specify the recipient's age, gender and a special request (e.g., new baby, local delivery, etc.). Baskets are \$100 each.

Order your basket by March 25th, but any special requests MUST be submitted by March 18th. You can order by email or by filling out an order form which you can pick up in the church office. Baskets can be picked up at St. Francis on March 25th or April 1st.

Contact Erin Buckingham to order or for additional information:
erinbuckingham@gmail.com or 301-910-8063



These are some baskets as they were being created last year





GOOD MUSIC. GOOD FOOD. GOOD FUN.

Heartfelt thanks to the many parishioners whose hard work made the Square Dance possible. Libby Rubin and Carol Jarvis coordinated the event, which featured the Ken Kolodner Trio and Rockland's BBQ. Adam Schneider (and his crew of 4) returned as set designer to convert St. Francis Hall into a barn complete with hay, split rail fencing, farm implements, and a saddle. Libby Rubin added much to the decor, with western themed decor and accents. Carol and Alina Jarvis spent the better part of the day prepping in the kitchen and getting all the tables laid out. The kitchen crew of Carol Thedford, Laurel Bahar and Jane Kirkhoff kept the food hot and plates full while bartenders Ed Detwiler and his son-in-law Anthony Nelson kept the drinks flowing.

As the band played bluegrass tunes, the caller walked the dancers through each dance, teaching moves from 'Do-Si-Do' to 'Over Under' to 'Peek Again' to 'Peel the Banana.' Though the dancers weren't flawless through every move, they caught on quickly and laughed through the unintentional modifications. Everyone had a 'barn' good time and enjoyed the old-fashioned fun.





Kids' Corner

We recently began the season called Lent in the church calendar. Lent is the special time when we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent, we remember Jesus' time in the desert and so we too spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. We get our souls ready by doing prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer is talking with God. We need to talk with God every day, even more than we need to talk to our family and friends. Lent is a good time to get into a habit of talking with God every day. You can talk to him out loud or in your head. You can talk to him with official prayers like The Lord's Prayer, or casually like you would talk to a friend. A good way to start is by thanking him for your many blessings. Then you could ask him to wrap his healing arms around the people you know who are sick. Or maybe you could tell him about the homeless person you noticed on the side of the road. You can even ask him to help you with your hard math homework. Or for advice on how to handle a friend you are having trouble with. He is there for you, and His love can help you get through bad times as well as celebrate the good times.

Fasting is eating less than you normally would. It is a way to suffer a little, like Jesus did when he was in the desert. He was tempted by sin, but didn't give in to temptation. It is a good idea to give up a little something you like for Lent. This helps you practice resisting temptation. For example, let's say you decide to give up cookies for Lent. If you see some at the store, or if your friend offers you one, you might really want to eat it, but you can't. Giving things up helps us remember we need God, not just food.

Almsgiving means giving to those who are in need. It helps us to be generous like God. Maybe you have a bit of money you can give to the poor or to the church. Remember that even little acts or little amounts can make a big difference in someone's life. You can put some coins into the plate during the offering on Sundays or make some caring bags to hand out to homeless people on the side of the road. Or you can go help at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen. There are lots of opportunities to help others.

So during Lent this year, make an effort to think about what you can do to talk to God, resist temptation, and help others. Before you know it, it will be Palm Sunday, and then Easter, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

This Chart is to help you mark the days of Holy Week. Start at the bottom: each day you can read the Scripture passage that tells what happened. The last day is Easter!

Easter He is Risen! Luke 24:1-12	(Colorful- a Celebration!)	
Holy Saturday A day of Sadness.	(Black- Sadness and Jesus Death)	
Good Friday Jesus is crucified. Luke 22:66-23:55	(Red- Jesus blood)	
Maundy Thursday Jesus washes the disciples feet and celebrates communion. Luke 22:7-65	(Dark Red- Communion Wine)	
Wednesday Judas agrees to betray Jesus to the priests for money. Luke 22:1-6	(Purple- Waiting)	
Tuesday Jesus Teaches at the Temple Luke 20:1-21:4	(Purple-Waiting)	
Monday Jesus Cleanses the Temple Luke 19:45-48	(Purple- Waiting)	
Palm Sunday Jesus celebrated as King! Hosanna! Luke 19:28-40	(Green for Palm Branches)	

Faces of St. Francis



Gillian Ellsworth and her husband Matt welcome their first baby, Samuel



Rise Against Hunger project organizers Susan and Bill Weinig

Pancake Supper: Eaters and workers

Thanks to the more than 30 volunteers at St. Francis week at IWWC this year!



Celebrations & Achievements

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



Happy Birthday



Congratulations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Debbie Alexander
- Gigi Asbury
- Gary D. Bachman
- Sarah Barpoulis
- Pat Bernard
- Candace Brenner
- Susan Burbage
- Callie Burd
- Henry Burd
- Wendy Burr
- Nicholas Caputo
- Catherine Celi
- Hazel Chamberlin
- Dillon Cuddapah
- Christine Ertel
- Meti Eticha
- Sandy Gaddy
- James Gregory
- Dana Haymon
- Betsy Higgins
- Andrea Tracy Holmes
- Carter Jillings
- Fred Johnsen
- Jim Kneussl
- Camille Lukash
- Cyril Lyskowski
- Helene Patterson Mullen
- Fifa Northrop
- James Nurse
- Chris Rigaux
- Kathy Round

- Jan Sanderson
- Karen Schneider
- Margie Scott
- Joanne Sennewald
- Charlotte Smith
- Kyle Stuart
- Dylan Thayer
- James Thompson
- Skylar Thompson
- Geoffrey Tinkham
- Marc Vincent
- Lindsay Wallace
- Peggy White
- Dylan Whittaker
- Emily Wilson
- Richard Wyatt
- Bernie Wysocki
- Merrill A. Yavinsky
- Lily Yokel

CELEBRATIONS

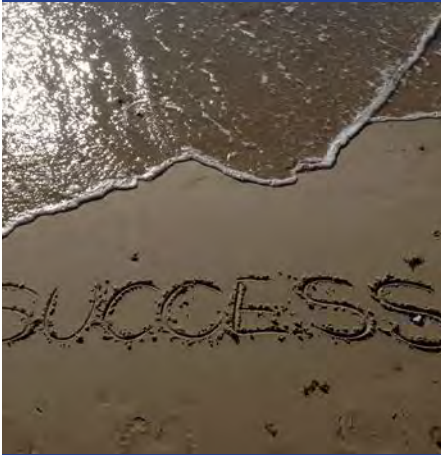
Congratulations to Gillian Ellsworth and her husband Matt on the birth of their son, Samuel.

Congratulations to Clark Boinis who placed second in his weight class at the MCPS County Wrestling Tournament and placed 3rd at the 4A/3A Maryland Regional Tournament. He is advancing to 4A/3A States this weekend!

Please share your celebrations, achievements and successes so we can include them here and celebrate with you.



Happy Anniversary



Celebrations

Community Bulletin Board

Safeguarding God's Children training 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. This training is required for anyone interacting with children through the church. Registration is now open for our spring sessions.

March 3 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul's, Piney Parish (map)

April 14 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalene (map)

April 21 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity (map)

April 26 from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Columba's (map)

CONNELLY SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD

Saturday, February 24 • 11 a.m.

Sensory Friendly show (free admission)

Friday, March 2 • 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 3 • 3 and 7 p.m.

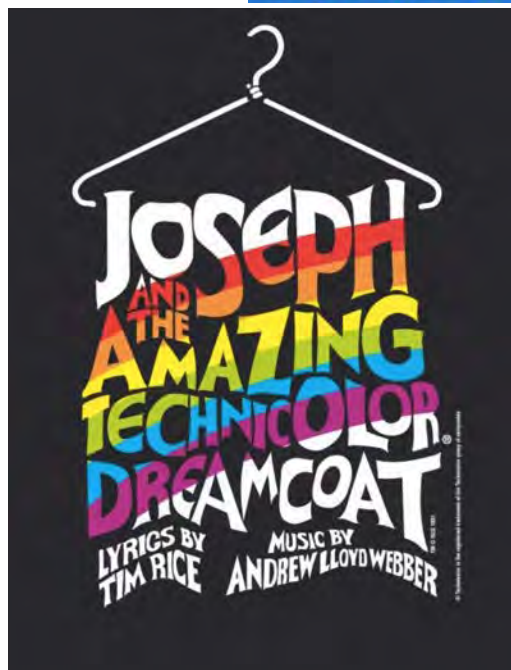
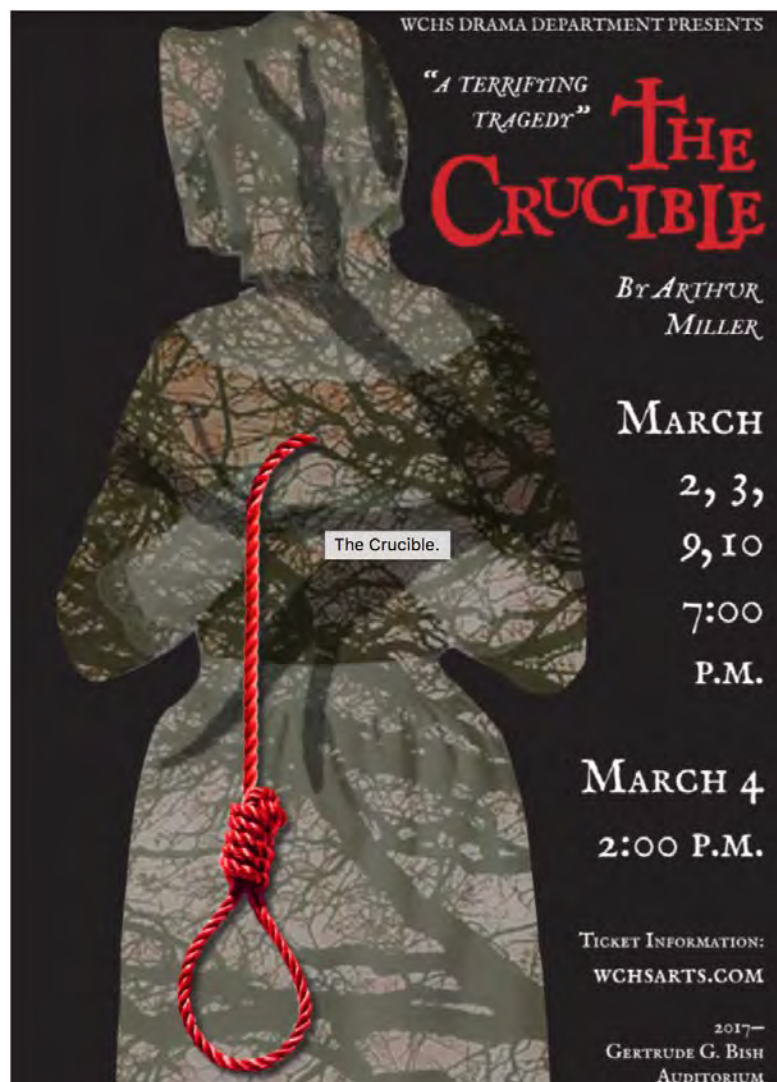
The irresistible family musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son.

Lyrics by Tim Rice
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018, sha la la Joseph you're doing fine! You and your dreamcoat ahead of your time! One of the most enduring shows of all time, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a reimagining of the Biblical story of Joseph, his father Jacob, eleven brothers and the coat of many colors.

Told entirely through song with the help of a main character Narrator, the musical follows preferred son Joseph. After being sold into slavery by his brothers, he ingratiates himself with Egyptian noble Potiphar, but ends up in jail after refusing the amorous advances of Potiphar's wife. While imprisoned, Joseph discovers his ability to interpret dreams, and he soon finds himself in front of the mighty but troubled, Elvis-inspired, Pharaoh. Joseph's solution to Egypt's famine elevates him to Pharaoh's right-hand man and reunites him with his family.

The magical musical is full of catchy songs in a variety of styles, from a parody of French ballads ("Those Canaan Days"), to country-western ("One More Angel in Heaven") and calypso ("Benjamin Calypso"), along with the unforgettable classics "Any Dream Will Do" and "Close Every Door."



Whitman drama



Winter Play

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, March 1-3 • 7 pm

National Cathedral Special Event: Adam Hamilton Book Discussion & Book Signing Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:00pm

Author Adam Hamilton will present his new book, 'UNAFRAID: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times.'

Drawing on fresh research, psychology, biblical principles, and his long experience shepherding a diverse faith community in Red State America, Hamilton helps readers untangle the knots of fear and truly embrace Jesus's recurring counsel: "Do not be afraid." He writes with generosity and intelligence for a wide audience in accessible language that will ring true to believer and unbeliever alike.

Tickets are required and available here: <https://cathedral.org/event/adam-hamilton-book-discussion/>. One ticket includes a hardcover copy of the book, which will be available upon entry at the venue.



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:

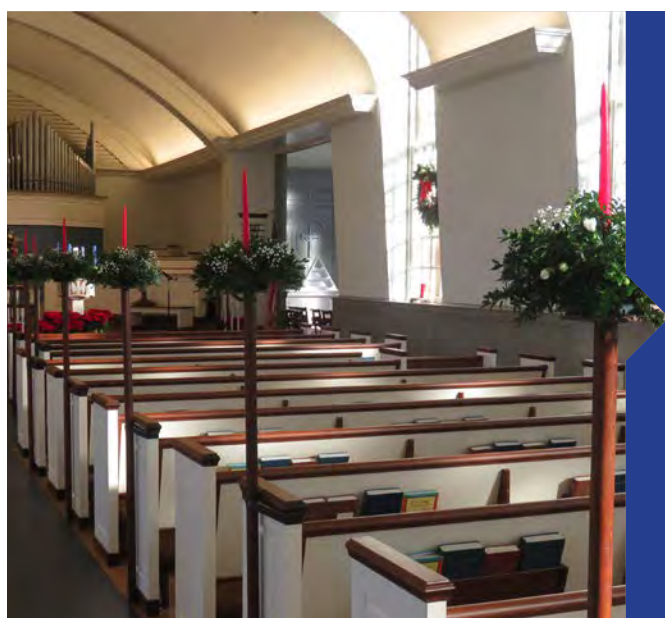
Sundays: 8am, 9:15am, 11:30am
Wednesdays at 10am

Morning Prayer:

Tu, Fri at 9:30 & Th at 10:00am

Evening Prayer:

Tu, Fri at 5pm
Th at 6pm



301-365-2055

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm

www.stfrancispotomac.org



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