

# SOUNDS

Volume 39 No. 3

January 18, 2009

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*Almighty God, whose Son our Savior  
Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
Grant that thy people, illumined by thy  
Word and Sacraments, may shine with  
the radiance of Christ's glory, that he  
may be known, worshiped, and obeyed  
to the ends of the earth; through the  
same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with  
thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and  
reigneth, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

## COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Morning Prayer  
Sunday School & Adult Education  
11:15 am Holy Eucharist

### MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Office Closed

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir  
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study  
7:00 pm Centering Prayer-Undercroft  
Vestry Meeting moved to Wednesday

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

10:00 am Holy Eucharist  
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible study  
7:30 pm Vestry Meeting—Kincaid Library

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

10:00 am WSF Crafters—Organizing Meeting  
5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for Issue 2/1  
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study  
7:00 pm Book Club—Youth Room  
7:30 pm St Francis Choir Practice

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Annual Meeting



The Scripture appointed for the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany:  
1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20); Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

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## FROM THE RECTOR

Words matter. At some point in recent years, the unwise or inattentive lost track of that truth. Some lawyers make their living reminding us of the force of words, as in contracts or the legal code. Someone who buys a first car, or signs a mortgage, is cautioned to read the fine print before affixing one's signature. Words do indeed matter.

It would make a rewarding study to parse the main words of the Book of Common Prayer. For instance, when we recite the Nicene Creed, what does it really mean to say, "We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God..."? We are not trying to be contentious, nor do we seek to claim some theological superiority. That is not the way our Lord would have us think or treat others. Jesus invited two men interested in theological matters to "Come and see" (John 1:38-39), by which he meant for them to spend time getting to know him. He did not bludgeon them with some assertion about theology, but rather he invited them to stay with him – and in time their "staying" would become "abiding", as they became his disciples. Words matter, and the words the Lord used were words of invitation.

Epiphany is the season in which the Church becomes mindful again of our responsibility and opportunity to extend that same invitation. To the curious, the indifferent, the lapsed, the discouraged – to all sorts and conditions – we have the mandate to invite them to come and see. Eternal things depend on it.

When the distinguished historian Mark Noll was here in 2005, he asserted that there is not a corner of the globe where the Name of Jesus cannot be heard. He was speaking of the remarkable changes in communication and technology. Words matter, and words can now get anywhere on the face of the earth. That is not

to say the task "to spread the word" is easy, or that there does not remain concerted hostility in some quarters to any attempt to make Jesus' invitation known. It would be both naïve and erroneous to think otherwise. The work of missionaries, as they are popularly known, continues to be a most faithful response to the Gospel.

Yet the Church does not always respond to this opportunity to invite others as it should. A primary failing in our own denomination occurs every time we hear those in authority compromise the basic premise of that article of the Creed: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ. I was reminded of this in studying again the collects appointed for Christmas, especially that prayer written no later than the 8th century in which we acknowledge that God has caused that holy night "to shine with the brightness of the true Light" (emphasis mine). That Light is the true light in contradistinction to all other lights, all other things which "enlighten" us but are in truth inadequate, if not outright false avenues of "spirituality."

When we have such a rich and important invitation to extend, we ought to be bold and gracious in doing so, not equivocating, "neither hot nor cold" as the Revelation puts it. We want to invite people to see Jesus as the True Light. And here is a simple understanding of that, found in a family Bible printed in 1805: "The process of revelation culminated in Jesus, in whom the indwelling of the Divine Spirit was perfect, unchecked by any sin or imperfection of His own being, so that every act and word of this Light of the World became a word of God to men, and His whole being was the Word of God." This is the one to whom the invitation leads: Come and see.

## LISTEN UP!

This series began last summer as a means of telling you a little of "my story" and to encourage your participation in exploring and learning some of the great music of the Western world, especially that which has come about in service to the Christian Church. Early in this series, I wrote:

"Many of you have commented positively on my recent *Listen Up!* series, for which I thank you. I plan to continue as a means of leading you to some of the great music of the church. However, please understand these are not museum tours. You need to participate actively for it to mean anything to you. I **encourage** you to seek out the music about which I write and to share it with other persons, particularly those who are young or inexperienced."

So, allow me to list a number of the works to which I referred over the course of the last several months. These are not all the pieces that have influenced me or found my favor. But we have to start somewhere and this is a fair representation of compositions that have been with me for many years and works that continue to inspire and inform me.

*Kyrie & Gloria (Mass in B minor)*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

*Chichester Psalms*  
Leonard Bernstein

*Rejoice in the Lamb  
Hymn to the Virgin  
Festival Te Deum*  
Benjamin Britten

*Requiem  
Four Motets on Gregorian Themes*  
Maurice Duruflé

*Requiem  
Cantique de Jean Racine*  
Gabriel Fauré

*Faire is the heaven*  
Sir William H. Harris

## JOY AND CONCERN

Please join us in prayer for Jacob Feagles, father of Prentiss Feagles, and for Richard Windham, father of Craig Windham, who died.

Please also pray for Fan Oleson who is recovering from surgery and Jane Maisch who is in the hospital.

*Lo, the full final sacrifice*  
Gerald Finzi  
*Messiah*  
George Frideric Handel

*Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks  
Magnificat (Gloucester Service)*  
*Take him, earth, for cherishing*  
*A Spotless Rose*  
Herbert Howells

*Drop down, ye heavens*  
Richard Lloyd

*Mass  
Canto Sagrados*  
James McMillan

*I was glad*  
Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

*There is a flower  
What sweeter music*  
John Rutter

*Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in G major*  
Sir Charles Villiers Stanford

*If ye love me  
The Lamentations of Jeremiah*  
Thomas Tallis

*Five Mystical Songs  
(poems of George Herbert)*  
*Serenade to Music  
Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis*  
*Lord, thou hast been our refuge*  
Ralph Vaughan Williams

Stay tuned....

Gary Davison, Organist and Choirmaster

## WOMEN of ST FRANCIS PROGRAMS - 2009

### Monthly Book Group - Meets the 3rd Thursday of most months at 7 PM in Youth Room

This month we are meeting on 1/22 and book is Three Cups of Tea by Mortensen and Selin. All readers are welcome. Call Mardy O'Neill, the coordinator, at 301-340-6550 if you would like more information.

### Craft Group(s) – now forming for both daytime and evening

The organizing meeting for this new group is on Jan. 22nd at 10AM in the Youth Room. We will discuss plans for times and topics for future meetings. This month we will work on Knitting basics. Membership is limited to anyone who has an interest in enjoying themselves and being exposed to various crafts. Prior experience and artistic talent are not required. You only need a desire to 'play' and socialize with friends—new and old.

### Parish Fellowship Potluck Dinners— ongoing January through May

These will be small dinners (6 to 10 guests) mixing long time parishioners with newer parish members. You may volunteer to be a Host home or to attend bringing a suggested course determined by host family. WSF will organize the dinner matches. Please call Christine at the Church office (301-365-2055) if you would like to either host or attend one of these dinners.

### Raggedy Ann Tea

**Saturday, March 21, Noon to 1:30**

This pre-theater event with Potomac Theater Company is always a huge favorite. It is a wonderful intergenerational event including Dads and Granddads. Call the Church office if you would like to attend. Karen Schneider will co-chair the event.

*Continued from Column 1*

### St. Francis Thrift Sale

**Fri. & Sat., March 27th and 28th**

The collection of items will begin Sunday March 22nd for this very popular event. Everyone loves a bargain, especially in tough economic times. The Co-Chairs are Mary Ashworth and Beth Higgins. Call the office at 301-365-2055 for drop off locations. We will not take Electronics or TVs

### PCHT House Tour Auction

Friday, October 2nd, 7:00 pm til ??

### Potomac Country House Tour

Saturday & Sunday, October 3rd & 4 th, Noon to 5 pm.

### Coming in the Spring - more cooking classes!

## PLEDGE ENVELOPES

We are happy to provide 2009 pledge envelopes to any parishioner who requests a set. For those who have already done so, the envelopes are available in the Narthex. If you have not requested a set but would like one, please contact the Finance office at the church. We will be happy to oblige.

## LOST AND FOUND

Winter is here and we are starting to amass a collection of gloves, scarves, driving hats and glasses. Please check the Lost & Found closet next to the Front office to see if any are yours while they are still useful.

There are also two lovely necklaces in velvet and leather jewelry boxes. They were quite a loss to whoever mislaid them. Please call the office at 301-365-2055 and if you can describe them, they are yours.

Thank You.

## NASHVILLE CHOIR FESTIVAL

Four of our Potomac Parish choristers will travel with me over the weekend of February 7-8 to participate in Nashville's Christ Church Cathedral Choir Festival. Most of our Saint Clare Girl Choir and our Choral Scholars went last year and did so well we were invited back. While our numbers are down significantly this year, I'm happy to say we have four very fine choristers representing us: high school junior and Choral Scholar, **Lauren Heywood**; high school freshman and Head Chorister, **Wendy Burr**; seventh grader **Lisa Johnsen**; and sixth grader **Christina Sturgeon**.

These four young women will join the choristers of Christ Church Cathedral and singers from the greater Nashville area, as well as from Alabama. They will be lead by Dr Jeffrey Smith, Canon Musician of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Their objective will be to prepare and lead a Sunday morning Holy Eucharist liturgy and the Sunday Evensong service in the historic and beautifully restored cathedral church on Broadway in downtown Nashville.

You can be confident Saint Francis Church will have its best foot forward with these choristers. Please join me in thanking them and their families for the time, talent, and dedication given to our music ministry through this outreach opportunity. Also pray for their own spiritual enrichment and a safe journey. Please know that I am grateful for all the families who commit themselves to adorning worship with refined music and to this parish for its support of such worthy endeavors. You continue to have my thanks in abundance.

- GD -

## ST. FRANCIS WEEK AT THE COMMUNITY BASED SHELTER

Sunday, February 15 - Saturday, February

Community Based Shelter is operated by Interfaith Works (formerly CMMC), and supported by the Parish Outreach Committee. It provides short term housing for homeless women actively preparing to move into more permanent housing. We are looking for enthusiastic help!

### Volunteers are needed to:

- 1) pre-shop breakfast, lunch supplies and paper goods for the week
- 2) provide dinner for approximately 30 women at 6:30 each night and
- 3) prepare daily bag lunches.

All Interfaith Works activities are **pre-approved for Student Service Learning hours** for Montgomery County public schools and community service hours for many private schools.

CBS is a friendly, well-lit facility located about fifteen minutes from Potomac on Wilkens Avenue in Rockville. Those who have participated in past years can attest to much warm and lively conversation with Shelter residents.

There will be much more information about this opportunity in next's week's *Sounds*. Contact Susan Dolan at 301-279-9129 ([sldolan@comcast.net](mailto:sldolan@comcast.net)) or Andy Jordan at 301-299-3162 ([marionaj@aol.com](mailto:marionaj@aol.com)) with questions.

Please team up and join us!

## NEW ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

A new support group for those caring with someone with Alzheimer's Disease led by ESM Cares' Director of operations, Mary Ann Buckley LICSW, began meeting in January. Meetings are set for 6 to 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at Arden Courts, 10718 Potomac Tennis Lane, Potomac, MD 20854. Call 301/983-3620 or e-mail [Potomac@arden-courts.com](mailto:Potomac@arden-courts.com) for more information or to register