

# SOUNDS

of

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*Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and all the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## FROM THE RECTOR

There are some direct ways the Episcopal Church is in a position to help in the wake of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Perhaps the most efficient way is through Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Formerly the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, this is a reliable channel provided contributions *are clearly stipulated for Haiti relief*. That is a practical necessity given the past history of this fund's operation. Here is their address:

**Episcopal Relief and Development,  
PO Box 7058,  
Merrifield, Va 22116-7058**

Mark the checks: **"HAITI FUND"**.  
Bishop Chane has endorsed this means of support.

My former diocese, Upper South Carolina, has labored in a thirty-year partnership with the Diocese of Haiti. At Christmas this year, Jennifer and I received notice that a gift had been given in our names to one of their projects. We were touched and honored by this gift, knowing that it would go to the excellent work that partnership has accomplished. Let me quote the report posted on Upper South Carolina's website: "The diocese [of Upper South Carolina] is also suggesting that those of us who desire specifically to acknowledge the intimate mission partnership we have with the church and people of Haiti make a targeted contribution to our 'BREAD AND WATER FUND.' Having been established two years ago, the "Bread and Water Fund" is uniquely positioned to support this Diocese's historical mission work in Cange, Haiti; and now in this crisis it can focus our aid on some very specific and profound needs. In particular, the '**Bread and Water Fund-Rescue**' will be designated to support the immediate work of the hospital in Cange (something [the Diocese of Upper South Carolina] helped build and develop) and

to insure the ongoing functioning of the Cange water supply.

"The diocesan-supported hospital at Cange is (according to news reports) the best hospital left standing in the country at this point, and its proximity to Port au Prince makes it an obvious center for medical relief services. With the damage to the power grid, one of the basic needs the hospital now has is to make sure that its supply of diesel fuel remains so that its generators can provide electricity to the hospital. Funds for medicines and other treatment courses will most certainly be in high demand, as well.

The other fundamental need right now is to insure that the water supply for the Cange community does not fail. Previous to this earthquake crisis, Upper South Carolina inaugurated the "Bread and Water Fund" to rebuild the water supply's worn, 25-year-old dam and to replace the water pump. How much more tragic would it be, now that the water supply must service many times more than the normal population, if this system failed?"

**Targeted contributions for Cange Support should be mailed to:**

**Diocese of Upper South Carolina,  
1115 Marion Street,  
Columbia, SC 29201**

Mark the checks: **BREAD & WATER -  
RESCUE, CANGE, Haiti.**

Before this issue went to press, the Women of St Francis held their winter business meeting. They had this information in hand, and in an act of characteristic generosity voted to send \$3,000 from the outreach money generated by House Tour to the "Bread and Water Fund" described above. I am personally grateful for their kindness, and even though I have no connection to that

*(Continued on next page )*

FROM THE RECTOR *continued*

diocese any longer, I am deeply touched by this act of generosity. It is the kind of thing the New Testament describes and commends.

Here are two avenues for relief support, both through the Episcopal Church – one by the denomination, the other by one diocese in partnership with the Diocese of Haiti. There are no doubt other excellent relief channels. Through it all, please hold the people of that stricken land in your prayers.

BE A PART OF HISTORY



Be a part of a 55 year tradition of service at St. Francis. Join us at the kickoff meeting for the 55th Annual Potomac Country House Tour (PCHT) on Wednesday, January 27th at 7:30 pm in Kincaid Library.

The House Tour, a project of the Women of St. Francis, raises funds for people in need in our county, our country, and world-wide. Some of last year's funds were recently sent to help the citizens of Haiti during this time of terrible turmoil and suffering.

Please join us as we combine our efforts to make this House Tour a great success

Laurel Bahar and Carol Tutura  
Co-Chairs, 2010 PCHT

A LETTER FROM THE REV'D GAULA

*We have received a new letter from the Rev'd Given Gaula, a priest of the Church of Tanzania, who served here for two years while he was a student at Virginia Seminary.*

Dear Billy and all the Saints at Francis:

Greetings in the Mighty name of the Lord Jesus from the Gaula family here in Auckland, New Zealand! We hope and trust that God's Kingdom continues to prosper at St Francis. God is good all the time. All the time God is Good!

*Continued in next column*

JOY AND CONCERN

Welcome to Genevieve Elena King, born on January 8 to Captains James and Ashlyn King (USMC, both), granddaughter of Sandy and Fred Meloan.

Please hold in your prayers Jean Kuckleman, mother of David Kuckelman, who died January 10.

BOOK CLUB CHANGES JANUARY'S BOOK

We have run into some difficulty finding the book, *Cutting for Stone*, that we had selected for January. Bookstores seem to be out of stock, libraries are behind in the number of copies they can hold, and the paperback version is not yet out.

So with your understanding, we have chosen another book, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. It was awarded the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished fiction by an American author, preferably dealing with American life. The citation described it as "*a collection of short stories set in small town Maine that packs a cumulative emotional wallop, bound together by polished prose and by Olive, the title character, blunt, flawed and fascinating*".

We will still meet on January 28th at 7:30 pm in the Youth Room. - Mardy O'Neil

*Continued from previous column*

The 2009 has been a blessed for us in so many ways, but there have been three or more main blessings for this year. One, is that my PHD progress goes well and I have completed three chapters. Another important thing to remember for us for the year 2009 is the fact that in a unique way God brought two Muslims families from Iraq and India into our lives in an amazing way. Last Christmas we had a wonderful meal at our house with these two families. They have experienced amazing love from the living God, God who became human in the person of Jesus. They have received a real transformation in their lives and now they

*Continued on next page*

**LETTER FROM REV'D GAULA** *continued*

want to be baptized in the Name of the Trinity: God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, and to be part of the Christian Community. Is that not amazing! It is only God who can do that! After experiencing sorrow, sadness, conflicts for many years now they have a new experience of peace, love and joy. God brought them into our lives for a reason. It is through the prayers of people of God, including St Francis, God has been able to bring these two Muslim families into our lives. We are sure that the people of God at the St Francis are praying for us and will continue spiritually to be with us, partnership means also praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world. St Francis remains a spiritual home for me in the USA. We continue to pray for St Francis as we understand many of our brothers and sisters at St Francis still face financial difficulties caused by economical downturn in USA.

I also say we are blessed because I see restoration and transformation happening in many ways of our lives through our journey of living in New Zealand. This reflects a willingness to let God have His way and to release us from the fear of being discovered by others and trust Him who knows us intimately and desires us to know Him more intimately. The journey for us now becomes that of the shepherds who 'went to Bethlehem to see the amazing thing which the Lord God had revealed.' (Luke 2.15) They left their fields and went to where the Lord had sent them. And He was there, Word made flesh, hope in the midst of despair, light in darkness, joy for a world thrown into chaos. This encounter with the 'Word made flesh' was no mere coincidence, no arbitrary interference by a distant Creator, rather it was a planned birth, a new beginning, an event upon which all of history would forever hinge.

Yesterday we were reading another amazing story in the Bible: "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way." Matthew 2.10-12

We noted that through out our life we have encounters with the Holy, Emmanuel, God with us. These encounters come when we are seeking diligently and sometimes when we are not. For the Magi their encounter came after a long journey of study and inquiry. This encounter brought them to their knees in worship and surrender. While this touches me deeply what moves me the most in this new year, this new decade is the fact that they returned home by another way .

My prayer is that as I encounter our Lord in reading the gospel of Luke, worship and prayer, in service both within my family and my community in Tanzania, or in simply celebrating His creation, I will be so moved, so enlightened, that I will find a new way home, a new road on which to journey. A way that is more intentional, more joyful, more passionate, more persistent, more about Him and less about me.

I invite you to join in this journey with me. A journey that not only the Magi but thousands of others through the centuries have traveled, a journey that will take us by another way.

Offering myself to Him

With love to all the Saints at St Francis

The Rev Given Mzanje Gaula  
292 St John's Road, Meadowbank,  
Auckland, 1072  
New Zealand

**ST. FRANCIS WEEK AT THE COMMUNITY BASED SHELTER**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
**A LENTEN SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

The Community Based Shelter (CBS) provides short term housing for homeless women actively engaged with professional services and treatment as they prepare to move into more permanent housing. CBS serves about 30 adults nightly, housing more than 300 residents per year. It is operated by Interfaith Works (formerly Community Ministry of Montgomery County), and receives both financial and in-kind support from the Parish Outreach Committee of St. Francis

CBS depends completely on the support of over 60 congregations and community groups which provide all the meals, serving supplies and kitchen volunteers on a rotating one-week per year basis. It could not operate without their (our) assistance.

**The Parish Outreach Committee is looking for your enthusiastic help in February!** Your commitment is both vital and flexible and you can choose the opportunities which work best for your schedule.

**Volunteers are needed to:** **1) pre-shop for the supplies and paper goods** for the week; **2) provide dinner at the shelter for approximately 30 women** at 6:30 pm daily which includes delivering and serving the dinner and some light cleanup; and **3) prepare daily bag lunches**. Pre-shopping takes two to three hours. Total serving and cleanup time for dinner is less than two hours, and lunch prep less than one hour. 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.

Lent begins during our week at Community Based Shelter with the dinner served on Ash Wednesday, and this provides an appropriate setting for Lenten preparation and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship as well as service. Children, teens, Scouts, St. Andrew's classes, families and friends from outside the parish are especially welcome.

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 having many warm and lively conversations with the Shelter residents.

Look for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board adjacent to St. Francis Hall, where menu suggestions and directions also will be posted. 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!*

**LINENS AND TOILETRIES COLLECTION**

We are also collecting supplies used by the shelter residents. Most particularly needed are:

- > **Twin & bunk-sized** bed linens
- > Towels & wash cloths,
- > Deodorant & bath soap
- > Feminine hygiene supplies,
- > Safety razors
- > Shaving cream,
- > Dental care items (note: oral rinses must be alcohol free, e.g. Crest Pro Health)
- > Other toiletries (Full-sized and travel sized are both gratefully accepted)
- > Laundry detergent (powder preferred)
- > Flashlights with batteries for power outages.

Collection boxes will be placed by the kiosk outside the church office for your convenience.

**COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH**

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24**

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

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

10:00 am Holy Eucharist  
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study  
7:30 pm House Tour Kickoff Meeting—Library

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28**

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 2/7/10  
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study  
7:30 pm St Francis Choir  
7:30 Book Club—Youth Room

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30**

8:30 am Loaves & Fishes—Kitchen

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31**

Loaves & Fishes Food delivery  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Holy Eucharist  
St. Francis Church Annual Meeting  
No 11:15 am Service

The Scripture appointed for the Third Sunday after Epiphany  
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

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