

SOUNDS

of
S
A
I
N
T
F
R
A
N
C
I
S

Volume 39 No. 8

February 22, 2009



THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Services on Wednesday, February 25

Ash Wednesday

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am & 6:30 pm

COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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

SHROVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
6:00 pm Pancake Supper
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study
6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 3/8
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:00 pm Book Club—Youth Room
7:30 pm St. Francis Choir

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

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



The Scripture appointed for the Last Sunday after Epiphany:
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Periodical postage paid
At Rockville, MD 20850

SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS (USPS 561-890) is published weekly (except the last week in December) and biweekly in July and August by St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854; Phone (301) 365-2055.
WEB ADDRESS: www.stfrancispotomac.org.
PUBLISHER: William M. Shand, III; Staff: Anne Haller, Herb Haller, Liz McLean McCordic, Helen Stupar, and Aradine Tardy
Periodical postage paid at Rockville, MD 20850.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sounds of St. Francis, 10033 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854

FROM THE RECTOR

Today's column features a parable. The normal production of this column begins when it is written, revised, and edited by the author. All theological errors are mine, and almost all printing ones are, too. Last week's column on Abraham Lincoln contained a minor miscue not present in the original draft. In an effort to improve a sentence, I altered the draft in an unintended way. Simply put, by my computer error involving what some will recognize as a "cut and paste" command, I managed to reduce the crowd attending Mr Lincoln's second inaugural by 49,000 people. (Usually, crowd estimates are inflated not deflated, by Washington reckoning.) Here is the sentence I intended, with the part I inadvertently cut out indicated in italics: "The address, only 701 words long, was delivered on March 4, 1865 to a **crowd of fifty** thousand or so rain-soaked onlookers, among whom stood John Wilkes Booth." The error came when I tried to rearrange the entire sentence. What happened to the missing forty-nine thousand or so in the crowd? They vanished, as it were, into cyber space, there to rest in peace.

By now the question may have crossed your mind, why is he rattling on about something this insignificant? In part, this explanation is a *mea culpa*. The error was, as the old liturgy used to put it, "my own fault, my own grievous fault". I wish I could blame it the error solely on the computer, but I cannot. ("The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." Passing the blame didn't work then, and it won't work now, even with computers.) Not only did I know the correct figure, I had checked it more than once. I simply missed the mark on the command, good intentions notwithstanding. And, of course, not until the issue was printed did I catch the error. To be sure, there are often errors in *Sounds* and in most church newsletters. Better to plead *nolo contendere* and maintain credibility than to appear as shocked as Captain Renault when he is told there is gambling in Rick's Café American in war-time Casablanca.

It also occurred to me that this parable underscores why "spell check" is a marginal asset at

best. It cannot catch errors which look right but are defective. Read the sentence with the italicized part omitted, and it will not appear erroneous or defective. In one respect, the sentence is neither, but it is flawed nonetheless. More careful proofreading might have caught the error, but not on the basis of how the sentence appeared. What was needed is what the National Football League calls "further review."

In all of this is a parable for Lent. Things are not always what they appear to be in our lives, and our souls stand in perpetual need of repentance and amendment of life. New beginnings are among the greatest graces of the Christian life, and before the new direction, which is the fruit of repentance, the "error of our ways" must be discerned, confessed, and abandoned. Such discipline is more than merely revising a periodic essay; it is a process that in some respects can take forty days or longer. Still, the end result of self-examination and repentance can indeed amount to many blessings, numbering even more than forty-nine thousand.

Evan Parker

For the first time since 1985, *Sounds* will not list Evan Parker among the crew who produce the newsletter. Until his most recent stroke left him incapacitated, Evan was a faithful worker with those who regularly sort and label the newsletter before it is taken to the Post Office on Shady Grove Road. Such dedication is rare in this or any church, and it is never to be taken for granted. In addition to that ministry, Evan was always here to lend a hand in various parish endeavors, to discuss world events with Thai, or to study Welsh or other languages. In the Kincaid Library are several Bibles in tongues other than English, a resource calling to mind the Day of Pentecost. Evan provided each of them. He died February 9th. The Burial office will be read on Monday, February 23rd at 11:00am, with burial two days later at Arlington National Cemetery. We shall miss his company, even as we are grateful for his faithful kindness. - WMS

MUSIC CITY

Music City is the nickname Nashville likes to be called and if it's country music *you* like, it's *the* place to be. However, there are other musical offerings to be heard in that pleasant place and on Sunday, February 8th, four of our choristers participated in just such an event. **Wendy Burr, Lauren Heywood, Lisa Johnsen, and Christina Sturgeon** joined the choristers of Christ Church Cathedral and Saint George's Church, as well as those from Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, Alabama for the cathedral's 2009 Choir Festival.

This year, Dr Jeffrey Smith, Canon Musician of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, came to lead us and absolutely delighted us with his wisdom and wonderful wit. We worked most of Saturday in rehearsals at the cathedral and then spent a very enjoyable time attending the Grand Ole Opry's early evening radio broadcast. It was truly a day of diversity!

The cathedral invited us to join them in leading their Sunday 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and our festival culminated with a four o'clock Choral Evensong, for which **Lauren** was chosen to serve as Cantor. She performed her role with consummate skill and all four of our young musicians represented Potomac Parish with great distinction. We owe them a very large debt of gratitude as our esteemed ambassadors in Christ as we also do for the family members who accompanied us. - GD



**PANCAKES! PANCAKES! EVERYWHERE
SHROVE TUESDAY**

PANCAKE SUPPER

6pm - 7:30 pm

Tuesday Feb 24th

Come enjoy all the pancakes, applesauce and sausage you can eat! Proceeds will support the youth mission trip. We will give a presentation on last years mission trip to Mexico at 6:30. Look for the opportunity to buy some beautiful lawn decorations for your friends! Video corner for little ones and maybe, just maybe, some FLAMINGOES!!

Adults-\$5; Children under12- \$3; Families- \$13

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

During Lent, we shall follow the custom of more somber decorations in church. At the suggestion of some on the flower guild, we will refrain from floral decorations from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week. Instead of beautiful arrangements, expect to see greenery and less dramatic offerings. Sundays are "in" but not "of" Lent, and are not counted among the 40 days of the season's duration. Still, visual reminders week by week help sustain our focus as we follow our Lord on the way to his Passion. In many churches, parishioners wishing to make a memorial gift take this opportunity to direct that gift to some other part of the Gifts and Memorial Fund, with proper acknowledgement in the service bulletin. We encourage that kindness during Lent. - WMS

NEARLY NEW THRIFT SALE

Ever heard someone say, "If you haven't used something in a year, get rid of it?" Now is the time to start spring cleaning and donate your gently used items for the thrift sale. The sale is **Friday & Saturday, March 27th & 28th**. Donations are now being accepted. We are not using the POD this year and 10 families have offered their homes for storage. Call Beth Higgins at 301-294-3344 or Mary Ashworth at 301-251-9255 for a dropoff location.

We accept housewares, holiday items, clothes, shoes, purses, toys, books, video tapes and dvd's, small furniture, bedding, pictures, and so much more! This year we will be featuring the "Children's Shop."

Don't have anything to donate? You still can be a part of the fun we have getting ready for the sale. We need volunteers! Lunch provided daily. Call Beth or Mary.

A QUICK NOTE re: Floral Arranging Class

If you 're interested in the Floral Arranging Class, please let Christine in the office (301-365-2055) know as soon as possible. We need more interested people to avoid cancelling the event. Thank you

