

# SOUNDS

of

Volume 40 No. 06

February 7, 2010

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*Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins and give us, we beseech thee, the liberty of that abundant life which thou hast manifested to us in thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## FROM THE RECTOR

*Excerpt from the Rector's Sermon on  
the Day of the Annual Parish Meeting*

*I Corinthians 13*

One happy reality for the Shand household is that both Ben and Peter are gainfully employed. Both of them enjoy jobs which did not exist in the years in which they were born. Ben works in biotechnology; Peter works for Apple Computers. In the years of their respective births, their respective careers did not exist.

How many of you have had jobs which did not exist when you were born? I think it is probably safe to say that every year, the percentage of those who would answer that in the affirmative will increase. I am sure that Ben and Peter could continue to answer that in the affirmative in any future year the rest of their days, given the ways the world of employment changes and changes and changes.

On the other hand, their father follows the vocation that their great-great-great grandfather did. His name was Peter. He was born in 1800, and ordained in 1833, a century and a half before I was ordained. Of course it is true that there are differences between how he followed his vocation and how I follow mine. For example, he never wrote a sermon on a computer or a typewriter, or even with a ballpoint pen, and that's just a mundane comparison. I wonder if Dr. Shand knew that all *he* needed was love. John Lennon wasn't even born until half a century after Dr Shand's death. How could he have known love without the culture and the media and the world's definitions, all those resources upon which it is so easy for us to rely? Imagine that.

On the day of an annual meeting, it is important to understand that if we would ever know the truth about Love, we will not learn it from the world. We will not learn the truth – the full, rich truth – from anyone or anything that has come into being in our own lifetime. Even though we are surely wise to look for new ways of doing things, just as we may look for new ways of earning a living, about some things we look not to the current or the modern, but to the eternal.

The first Peter Shand and I are priests in different churches, to be sure. He could not have imagined many of the things for which we give thanks today, nor could he have imagined some of the things which break my heart when I think about the Episcopal Church of our day. He could not have begun to understand what Ben and Peter do for a living. (In that he and I are more alike than not.)

But, he knew the truth about Love, and that truth sustained him in the face of challenges you and I will never know, I pray. He learned that truth the same way we do: In the Sacraments of the Church, in the study of God's word as revealed in Holy Scripture, in the beauty of holiness when two or three are gathered together, and in giving up ourselves to God's service, to walk in those paths God has prepared for those who follow him.

That is how he learned the truth about Love, and that is how we shall, too. And that is why it is so important for us to hear these words again on the day we meet to take counsel for this parish family, where we do not have to ask or imagine what Love has to do with anything.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO A WEDDING SHOWER

Please join us on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, in the Kincaid Library, 3--5 PM, for a wedding shower in honor of our seminarian, Josiah Rengers, and his fiancée, Katie Nakamura, also a student at Virginia Theological Seminary. The shower is sponsored by the Women of St. Francis with assistance from Josiah's Lay Committee.

Come and join in the joyful afternoon and meet Katie. If you wish, you may bring a gift of your own choosing, or you may contribute to a group gift certificate. The entire parish is invited--but please RSVP to the church office or to Janet Wilson, Grace Polan, or Nancy Hoke. Please come and give your support to these two future priests as they embark on their journey as a married couple.

## YOUTH GROUP SKI TRIP IS THIS WEEK

We are heading back to Seven Springs this year to hit the slopes. National Pres and St Francis back in action! We will have great worship and discussions this year, focusing on how to love your family. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring friends. This has been a great year for the snow so skiing will be amazing!

There are still a few slots available. The cost is \$250 (\$200 for non-skiers) and covers food, lodging, rentals, lift tickets, tubing, t-shirt and a few other surprises. Contact David Hirsch to join the fun.

## A NOTE FROM THE ACCOUNTING STAFF

We would greatly appreciate it if you would not fold your checks when putting them in your donation envelopes. Our new check scanning system is quite sensitive and can have trouble reading a folded check. Thank you for your kindness.

## NEW! YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Starting on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, a young adults' Bible Study group will begin following the 9 am service.

This is an opportunity for folks in their twenties and early thirties to explore how biblical themes apply to and affect our lives. This will be a time for fellowship, exploration and good conversation. All young adults are welcome. The group will be led by Josiah Rengers, our seminarian, and will be held in the undercroft of the church.

## HAVE A FAVORITE FAMILY TREAT?

Please contribute it to the Holiday Supplement of the St. Francis Cookbook! Favorite family recipes, especially entrees, vegetables, and one pot meals, are welcome. Please put your contribution in the Women of St. Francis mailbox or e-mail them to [info@stfrancispotomac.org](mailto:info@stfrancispotomac.org) with "Holiday Recipes" in the subject line.

## ST. FRANCIS WEEK AT CBS IS NEXT WEEK

We still have a few days open for folks who would like to provide a meal or make bag lunches for the women at the CBS shelter.

You can sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board outside St Francis Hall OR call the office (301-365-2055) and they will let you know the days available & sign you up

Please 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.

## LINENS & TOILETRIES COLLECTION CONTINUES

Please leave your donation of toiletries and twin or bunk bed linens for the residents in collection boxes by the kiosk outside the church office.

**COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH**

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

10:30 am Grounds Committee - Workroom  
5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir  
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir  
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft  
7:30 Communications Committee

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

8:30 am Parish Life Committee  
5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for **2/21/10**  
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study  
7:30 pm St. Francis Choir

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study  
Youth leaving on Ski Trip

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

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



The Scripture appointed for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13], Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

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