

# SOUNDS

Of

Volume 40 No. 07

February 14, 2010

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## ***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 17**

**Ash Wednesday**

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

## FROM THE RECTOR

Two books from my recent reading are particularly appropriate for February, and come with high recommendations for your consideration.

The first is Ronald C. White's splendid biography, *A. Lincoln*. The title refers to the way Mr. Lincoln most frequently signed his name. It has been claimed that there are more books on Abraham Lincoln than any biographical subject other than our Lord, and White's volume takes its place alongside the one published in 1995 by David Donald at the top of a considerable stack.

Widely touted as one of the best books of 2009, Dr. White's study of Mr. Lincoln offers a considerable asset for any interested in the deep question of Mr. Lincoln's religious views. When I had the opportunity to meet Dr. White last year, I thanked him for this aspect of his work. His reply was gracious, noting that his own background – he earned his doctorate in religion and history at Princeton – perhaps equipped him in a way unavailable to other historians who did not know how to write about this complex aspect of Mr. Lincoln's personality. To that I would add my own observation, that perhaps it did not suit the purposes of political correctness to add that part of the story. One sees that neglect or denial all too often in other places, but not in this book.

Consider this description of Mr. Lincoln's view of God: In his farewell remarks to his friends in Springfield, Illinois as he departed to come to Washington for his inauguration in 1861, Mr. Lincoln "devoted 63 of his 152 words to describing the omnipresence of God", according to White. "The God that Lincoln invoked was more than the creative first force cited by Jefferson. Lincoln appealed to a God who acted in history – who attended George Washington in the past, was able to *go* with Abraham Lincoln to Washington in the present, and would *remain* with Lincoln's friends in

Springfield in the future." That is not only good history, it is good theology. Both are rare in these days; to find them in one biography, especially of such an important figure, is something not to be missed.

The second book is *King's Dream*, by Eric J. Sundquist, Distinguished Professor of Humanities at UCLA. A graduate of the University of Kansas and Johns Hopkins University, Professor Sundquist offers a careful analysis of the great speech given by Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial in the summer of 1963. Commonly referred to now by the culminating refrain, "I have a dream", the speech was the product not just of an orator of uncommon ability, but also of deeply held Biblical images which informed Dr. King and his approach to civil rights.

This slim volume caught my attention when I read that Dr. King had improvised the concluding peroration of his address. For a variety of reasons he departed from his prepared text, giving the country some of the most famous, cherished oratory in our history. As one who has given more than a few talks and sermons, I was stunned to learn this part of the story, and I wondered where that imagery came from. The primary goal of Professor Sundquist's book is a consideration of the sources of Dr. King's thought.

What he has accomplished is not just a balanced, penetrating literary analysis of a great speech. He has also uncovered the distinctly Christian nature of Dr. King's thoughts, and the theological antecedents which led him to that dream of which he spoke. That element is part of the story. In a day of eroding biblical fluency – a time when the Bible which shaped so much of the thought and the style of both Mr. Lincoln and Dr. King – such books as these are well worth our time and attention. Here are two volumes worth consideration.



## SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER FEBRUARY 16TH, 6-7:30 PM

Come enjoy all the pancakes, applesauce and sausage you can eat served by the members of our Youth Group! Proceeds will support the Youth Group's mission trip. We will give a presentation on last year's mission trip at 6:30. Look for the opportunity to buy some beautiful lawn decorations for your friends! There will be a Video corner for little ones and maybe, just maybe, some FLAMINGOES!!

DONATION: Adults - \$6:00; Children under 12 - \$4.00; Families - \$15.00



Holy Eucharist services will be held in St. Francis Church at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

## FEBRUARY BOOK CLUB - 2/18/10

CUTTING FOR STONE BY ABRAHAM VERGHESE

Now that the paperback version is out and the book easily available both in stores and on-line, the Book Club is once again taking up *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. It is described by Ann Packer, author of *The Dive From Clausen's Pier*, as "A marvel of a first novel. Verghese's generosity of spirit is beautifully embodied in this gripping family saga that brings mid-century Ethiopia to vivid life. The practice of medicine is like a spiritual calling in this book, and the unforgettable people at its center bring passion and nobility — not to mention humor and humility — to the ancient art, while living an unforgettable story of love and betrayal and forgiveness. It's wonderful."

Please join us February 25th at 7:30 pm in the Youth Room to discuss this highly recommended book.

## JOY AND CONCERN

Please join in prayer for Lillian M. Hansen, mother of Carol Hansen, who died on February 1st.

## WEDDING SHOWER REMINDER 2/21/10

If you have not RSVP'd yet for the wedding shower for Seminarian Josiah Rengers and Katie Nakamura, please do so. The shower will be Sunday, February 21st, 3-5, in the Kincaid Library. The entire parish is welcome. If you would like to bring a gift of your own choosing, or if you would like to contribute to a gift certificate, you are welcome to do so. RSVP to the office, Janet Wilson, Grace Polan or Nancy Hoke.

## SENIOR POT LUCK LUNCH IS FEB. 18<sup>TH</sup>

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: PAST, PRESENT, AND WHAT THE FUTURE MAY BRING.

It is time for another Pot Luck Luncheon! Our first one was so successful that we want to do it again! It resulted in many delectable dishes and there were very few left-overs! We also uncovered some talented cooks, as well as some handy sources for take-out.

If your **last name begins with A-F**, please bring a **salad** (containing protein), **G-O** bring a **dessert** and **P-Z**, bring a **main course**- all ready to serve 4 to 6 people. Beverages, other than wine, and rolls will be supplied. The cost will be only \$5.00. Please call Christine in the Church Office to make reservations, indicating what dish you will bring.

We are very pleased to have one of our own, Dr. George Stosur, as our guest speaker. George recently retired from the U. S. Govt. Service, having directed research related to global energy resources and climate change. This promises to be a fascinating and timely subject.

**COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH**

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

**HUNGER SUNDAY**

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

**SHROVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

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  
7:30 pm Vestry Meeting

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

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 18**

12:00 pm Senior Pot Luck Lunch  
5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 2/28/10  
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study  
6:30 pm Student Ministry Compline  
7:30 pm St. Francis Choir

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Morning Prayer  
Sunday School and Adult Education Hour  
11:15 am Holy Eucharist  
3:00 pm Wedding Shower for Josiah & Katie



The Scripture appointed for the Last Sunday after Epiphany  
Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]

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