Coming Up at St Francis

Sunday, March 29
Loaves & Fishes
8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School & Adult Education
11:15 am Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, March 31
5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

Wednesday, April 1
10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study

Thursday, April 2
5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for **4/12**
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:30 pm St Francis Choir
7:30 pm House Tour Kickoff–Library

Friday, April 3
7:00 am Men's Bible Study

Saturday, April 4
9:30 am Web Site Orientation Meeting–Hall

Sunday, April 5
Palm Sunday
8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School & Adult Education
11:15 am Holy Eucharist

The Scripture appointed for the Fifth Sunday in Lent:
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-13 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

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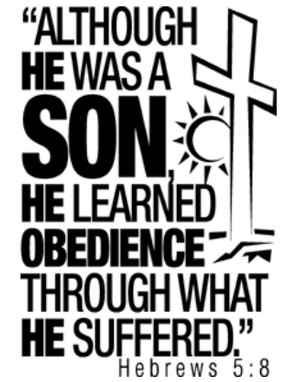
Sounds

Of **S A I N T F R A N C I S**

Volume 39 No. 13 March 29, 2009



O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR

In my library are two books saved by my mother. They are the first books of my theological collection. One is *Our Heavenly Father: A Story Book for Little Children* (1953); the other is *We Trust God* (1954). They were published as part of what was then called The Episcopal Church Fellowship Series, and they were used in our Sunday school curriculum.

It would be easy to find fault with these little books. The language seems somewhat prim, and missing are some of the ambivalent themes we cannot escape in today's church. But finding fault would be to miss the point and to repeat the arrogant error to judge others solely through the lens of our own perspective. Some historians call that "presentism", an awkward word, but a descriptive one.

Far better is to review this material to see what truths abide, and what virtues extolled half a century ago are not to be discarded or diminished. For instance, consider these words to the parents of first graders: "The Church needs the active cooperation of the parents. You can help, first, by your example, and then by your guidance. Consistent Church worship, making Sunday a holy and happy family day, occasional quiet prayer in the church, entering into the educational, social, and service activities of the parish– all these will set the example that is necessary in a Christian family." What has changed in five decades? What was true then is true now.

On the cover of one of these books is a stylized picture of Jesus and some children. Six children, all white, stand respectfully looking at a painting. In the painting, Jesus has gathered five children around him. Only one of them is white, a pretty blond girl, while the other four are African and Asian. I wonder if the cover art was sufficiently sophisticated to depict a total of 11 children, a motif replicating those pictures of the disciples after our Lord's Resurrection and before the replacement of Judas. Is it not ironic that the message of this rather gentle inclusion should have preceded the upheaval in American society that came in the civil rights era? The ground was being prepared, but it would take more decades before the crop would come to fuller harvest. Some say we are not there yet.

In any event, these books point to the importance of laying foundations. A bit of conventional wisdom often associated with the Jesuits holds that the first seven years of life moulds adulthood. (The saying is put various ways.) In an age when so much seems to change, and not always for the better, perhaps the wisdom of that adage is more important than we thought, Jesuitical or not. The Episcopal Church curriculum of a by-gone era was predicated on some important truths that still hold even amidst what one old hymn calls "mists and rocks and quicksands", and the Collect for the fifth Sunday in Lent calls "sundry and manifold changes of the world." Educational techniques change with the wind, but fundamental principles do not. And it is just as important that we pass them on to our children now as ever it was. Please take that to heart.

2009 VESTRY

Ellen W. Tozer—Senior Warden
Steve Wilson—Junior Warden
The Rev. William M. Shand III—Rector
The Rev. Phillip C. Ellsworth, Jr.

Class of 2010
Gary Bachman (Finance)
Corey Burr (Property—Buildings)
Nancy Hoke (Pastoral Care)
George Maroulis (Youth)

Class of 2011
Judy Austin (Outreach)
Fred Daly (Christian Education)
Steve Harper (Stewardship)
Anne Wallace (Fellowship)

Class of 2012
Sue Tendall (Parish Life)
Keith Gardiner (Communications)
James Baker (Property—Grounds)

Convention Delegates
Norma Young
James Baker

Officers of the Vestry
Jody Thayer—Clerk of the Vestry
Gary Bachman—Treasurer
William Tull—Assistant Treasurer
Joel Basset, Esquire, Legal Counsel

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 5 - Palm Sunday
8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am and 11:15 am Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Communion

April 6 - 8 Weekdays
6:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
10:00 am Holy Eucharist—Wednesday Only

April 9 - Maundy Thursday
6:00 pm - Parish Supper (reservations required)
7:30 pm—Holy Eucharist

April 10 - Good Friday
Noon to 3:00 p.m. Liturgy for Good Friday

April 11 - Holy Saturday and Easter Eve
9:15 am Office for Holy Saturday (chapel)
4:00 pm Administration of Holy Baptism

April 12— Easter Sunday
7:30 am Holy Eucharist (Note the hour)
9:00 & 11:15 am - Festal Celebrations of the Lord's Resurrection

MITE BOX REMINDER

Students, please remember to turn in your Mite Boxes this Sunday, March 29th!

SENIOR TRIP TO QUANTICO

On **April 16th, the Seniors will be going to the Marine Museum** at Quantico, VA. Lunch will be a cafeteria-style buffet in the Museum. Whether we go by cars or rent a bus will depend on the number of people who sign up. We will leave St. Francis at 9:30 and return about 3:30. **We need to know how many are coming by April 9th** so we can make the arrangements. To reserve a place, please call Christine in the church office at 301-365-2055