

SOUNDS

of

Volume 40 No. 10

March 7, 2010

S

A

I

N

T

F

R

A

N

C

I

S

Music at Eventide

Vespers

With the chanting of The Great Litany

7 March 2010

5:30 in the Parish Church

The Rev'd William M. Shand III, Officiant

The Saint Francis Choir

*Music by Hilton, Farrant, Howells, Moore, Wise, and
Parry*

Reception follows in Saint Francis Hall

Childcare provided

FROM THE RECTOR

Too much snow has fallen since the diocesan convention in January, and thus our minds have been occupied by things other than the most important news to emerge from that gathering: Bishop Chane will retire in 2011, and thus is set in motion the Byzantine process of electing the IX Bishop of Washington. Herewith a few thoughts on what is, or might be, to come.

Bishop Chane caught most of us by surprise. There was no inkling that he would announce this decision. As he made clear, his health is good and he retains much energy in exercising this ministry. If he were inclined to remind us in an "I told you so" manner, he could do that, for he had said at the time of his election in 2002 he hoped to serve eight years. When he came here, he kept his property in San Diego, and – given the weather in Washington this past month alone – who could blame him for wanting to return to one of the most beautiful locales in this land? In his announcement to the convention the Bishop said the time had come to elect a younger person to lead this diocese, noting that he will have spent over 38 years in ordained ministry when he steps down.

To set this process in motion, the Bishop has to indicate his intentions to the Standing Committee of the diocese, an elected body of four priests and four lay persons. According to the canons of the Episcopal Church, it is the Standing Committee's responsibility to accept the Bishop's resignation, act as a liaison to the Presiding Bishop, and organize the election of the new bishop.

The timetable Bishop Chane suggested would look something like this: This month the Standing Committee will appoint a search committee to conduct the nominating process. That committee likely will function the way such committees do when searching for a rector in a parish: They will draft a profile of the diocese and its vision for the new bishop. In considering potential nominees, they will interview dozens of priests, and perhaps a few incumbent bishops in other dioceses. In time they will release a slate

of nominees, maybe five or six in number. There may be some provision for additional nominees by petition, but likely no provision for nominees "from the floor" at the electing convention. Background checks will be conducted. When the official slate is made known, there will likely be a series of "walkabouts" when the nominees visit the regions of the diocese to meet parishioners. All of this is fairly standard procedure these days. Bishop Chane suggested the election itself occur in the late spring of 2011. There will be a special convention, with election by orders – clergy in one count, laity in a separate count. In order to be elected, a nominee must receive majorities "in both orders" as is said. In effect that means there are two elections, or at least two discrete constituencies.

One more detail: When a person is elected bishop, consents must be received from other incumbent diocesan bishops and from standing committees of every diocese. What used to be more or less routine has become less so in these contentious times. Right now that process is being carried out in the wake of a controversial election in the Diocese of Los Angeles. Keep your eyes on what happens in the Los Angeles process, and file it away for possible relevance when Washington elects a bishop. It is no exaggeration to say that many in the Anglican Communion will follow the Los Angeles process, with no small number objecting to the likely outcome. Just think what happened the last time New Hampshire elected a bishop.

It is too early to speculate who might be among the nominees, much less who could be considered the likely front-runners. Suffice it to say, the process is a complicated one, often fraught with politics of the lowest order. Later on, we will consider the importance of electing bishops and how that evolved in this denomination. In any event, the coming months will be interesting ones in the Diocese of Washington.

ST. FRANCIS WEEK AT THE COMMUNITY BASED SHELTER: THANK YOU!

Most heartfelt thanks to all the generous souls who dug out from the Blizzard of 2010 to provide a week's meals to 32+ homeless women from February 14th through 22nd. During the week of the blizzard, the residents at CBS and those next door at Sophia House had to be evacuated to the Seven Locks Detention Center for their safety, and because volunteers simply could not get there with food. Our crews arrived to find bare shelves and refrigerators, which were quickly and amply restocked with nourishing groceries and meals.

These volunteers deserve extra thanks for their willingness to battle not only icy drifts but also numerous calendar and Kalendar challenges, including Presidents' Day Weekend & the Youth Ski Trip, Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Supper and Ash Wednesday services. Their efforts were sincerely appreciated by the residents and also by the staff, who remember with anticipation from year to year our parish's wholesome cooking and the lovingkindness it represents. The Parish Outreach Committee echoes their *au revoir* compliment: "We're excited when we hear it's St. Francis coming again. We can always count on you."

Helping shop, cook, prepare lunches and serve dinners were the following parishioners and their friends: Kathy Tansey, Leili and Phillip Doerr, Liz McLean-McCordic, Sarah and David Kuckelman, Erica, Pat, Brian and Katie McNeilly, Joan Maroulis, Jody Tabner Thayer, Brad, Carly and Emma Thayer, Fred Johnsen, Judy Austin, Rosemary MacDonald, Barbara Moore, Carol Jarvis, Laurel Bahar, the Junior High Youth (Katherine Kuckelman, Drew, Betsi and Blake Micholas, Dylan Cuddapah, Shelley Austin, Megan Wilson), Anna & David Hirsch, Susan Dolan, Christine Tetrault, Trina Bachman, Dana Semmes, Barbara Cantey, Kate Niewenhaus, Brenna, Nils and

Juliana Lofgren, Natalia Tono, Janet Wilson, Grace Polan, Deborah Kalas, Susan Carlson, the Senior High Youth (David Sturgeon, Rebecca Ewel, Lisa Johnsen, Molly Kiniry), Alan, Julie and Brett Van Egmond, Marie Hutton, Andy Jordan, Marion and John Jasin, and Victoria Ellsworth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN PROJECT

HELP FOR HAITI

Grades Pre-K through Six have been learning about Haiti and how we can help the people there after the earthquake. Each Sunday School family has received a Mite box and Lenten Devotion calendar from the organization Food for the Poor.

Students may return these Mite boxes starting Sunday March 14.

FRIENDS OF LIFE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Have a heart for women? Want to make an eternal difference in someone's life? Then this opportunity is for you!

The Rockville Pregnancy Center is holding a DAYTIME training beginning in March. Topics covered will be the sanctity of life, 5 counseling techniques, fetal development, adoption, abortion, the legal status of abortion, abstinence, and the role of the gospel.

When: March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24

Time: 10 am- 1pm

Where: Rockville Pregnancy Center
12730 Twinbrook Parkway, 2nd flr
Rockville, MD 20852

Cost: \$30

Go to: www.rockvillepregnancycenter.org and click on "Counselor Training" for all the information. Remember, God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called! See you then!

Gail Tierney

Executive Director

Be part of the miracle....

saving one baby at a time!

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Women of St. Francis Reading Group has begun its third year! It must be doing something right!

Come and join us to discuss *The Reliable Wife* on March 25th and *The Help* on April 22. We meet in the Youth Room the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30pm.

The Reliable Wife, Richard Goolrick's first novel, is set in 1907 rural Wisconsin, most of it during a harsh winter! Reviewers call it "hard to put down" and "captivating", saying "the writing is raw and powerful." Goolrick writes of people who have done "awful things, not good people to start with; yet who try to redeem themselves if even in just a small way".

The Help by Kathryn Stockett is her first novel set in 1962 during the early years of the civil rights movement. In a page-turner that "brings new resonance to the moral issues involved, she spins a story of social awakening as seen from both sides of the American racial divide." It is a must read.

SENIOR LUNCH PLANS FOR MARCH 18TH

On March 18th we propose continuing the St. Patrick's Day festivities just a little longer by joining for lunch at The Irish Inn at Glen Echo. The Irish Inn is well known for its excellent service and delicious menu. To learn a bit more about it, visit its website: www.irishinnglenecho.com.

If you would like to be in the party, please call Christine at the office by Monday, March 15th at noon. If we get enough interest, Don Harrison will make the arrangements and let you know the time and directions to the Inn.



Ceard Mille Failte



**DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE
YOUR CLOCKS!**

**Daylight Savings Time
begins next Sunday
(3/14/10) at 2:00 am.**

PLEASE HELP IDENTIFY OUR MYSTERY DONOR

On Sunday, 2/21, someone donated cash in a green-bordered envelope from 2008. We cannot identify the donor by the old envelope number, so that donation will not be credited to his or her account unless he or she contacts us.

Please do not use previous years' envelopes, especially if you are using cash. If you need envelopes for this year, contact the office at 301-365-2055 and we will put a box in the narthex for you. Thank you for your assistance.

THRIFT SALE DATES

The correct thrift sale dates are **Friday and Saturday, March 26th (8 am-4 pm) and 27th (8 am-1 pm).**

This is an opportunity to donate unused items that are taking up space in your closets, attics and basements.

We gladly accept clothing, housewares, jewelry, small furniture and gently used toys but must decline electronics and upholstered furniture.

Donations may be brought to St. Francis Hall starting on Sunday, March 21st, after the Adult Education Forum and throughout the week until noon on Thursday, March 25th.

Please call Beth Higgins at 301-294-3344 (higginsb@erols.com) or Mary Ashworth at 301-251-9255 (mljashworth@gmail.com) with questions.

LISTEN UP!

Born a little less than a month apart in the same year, George Frideric Handel (b. 23 Feb 1685) and Johann Sebastian Bach (b. 21 March 1685) never met. They knew of each other and greatly admired each other's work and although attempts were made several times to arrange a meeting, – even a playing contest! – alas, it never happened.

Although both German by birth and commanding giants in the entire history of classical music, their careers could not have been farther apart. Handel studied formally in Italy and eventually settled in England becoming a British citizen. He enjoyed great international success commercially and was adored by the throngs, from tradesman to the Crown. His popularity is likened to a “rock star” of today, although I dare say legitimate talent and industry earned his reputation and all without the aid of electronically amplified and manipulated processing and flashy visuals inflicted on us in the current age. Much of his life was spent in the world of secular music, especially in opera, but it must be noted he was a vestryman of his London church, Saint George's, Hanover Square, and his greatest musical achievement was a rather well-known oratorio about Jesus called *Messiah*.

Bach, on the other hand, never ventured past the borders of Germany. Orphaned at the age of ten, he was educated mostly by family members. While he did secure a few court appointments, for the most part his career was as a church musician. There is no doubt he was a devout Lutheran with a formidable knowledge of theology, which greatly influenced his work; copious notes jotted in his own books attest to that. But Bach was destined for a rather provincial life in the end. Unlike the bachelor Handel, Bach married twice and fathered 20 children (10 surviving to adulthood). Although regarded as one of the greatest organists and composers ever, even in his own day, he never achieved the same fame or fortune as did Handel. Further, it took the 1829 revival by Mendelssohn of *Saint Matthew Passion*, now widely regarded as the pinnacle of Christian music, to put Bach back on the musical map, unlike Handel whose works have never faded

from popularity (even Ludwig van Beethoven claimed Handel as his favorite composer).

In a generalized nutshell, the difference in their writing styles can be described as follows: Handel was very much the Italianate melodist of great clarity and Bach the Germanic contrapuntist of rich texture. Each was certainly capable of the other style and so demonstrated in their respective compositions, but the basic difference in approach is clear once you've got the hang of it.

You may recall that in the last Listen Up! we gave a nod to Antonio Vivaldi and his set of concerti called *The Four Seasons*. Handel and Bach both knew his music and studied it as a model for their own work. Handel wrote quite a number of concerti in this style, including a set featuring the organ as the solo instrument, perhaps the first to do so. We'll have to wait for another time to consider these elegant works more fully but I encourage you to seek them out if you don't know them.

Bach's set of six concerti, referred to as the *Brandenburg Concertos* (due to their dedication to Christian Ludwig, then Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt), took the form to dizzying new heights. His orchestration brought together instruments of unusual combinations and the deftness of his technique stretched all boundaries of conventional expectation. Although the first concerto has an added set of Menuet and Trio movements, all six follow the overall three movement structure of the Italian model: Fast-Slow-Fast. The invention, variety, and multi-layering magic, however, are nothing short of astounding and groundbreaking for the early 18th century. A new recording just issued by the English Baroque Soloists (SDG 707) directed by John Eliot Gardiner delivers the most riveting performance of these works my ears have ever heard. It is a thrilling rollercoaster ride of expressiveness from heartbreaking subtlety and finesse to blazing (almost terrifying) pedal-to-the-metal allegro passages. This one is a MUST! It would make an excellent gift and most of the concertos are 10-15 minutes long, making each a manageable listen even for young ears. So, turn off the TV and Listen Up!

– Gary Davison, O-C

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

For more information, please visit our website at www.stfrancispotomac.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School and Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Holy Eucharist
5:30 Lenten Vespers
Reception following in the Library

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 3/21/10
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:30 pm St Francis Choir

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

2:00 am **CHANGE TO DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

HUNGER SUNDAY

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 Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

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; telephone (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