

# SOUNDS

of

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June 13, 2010

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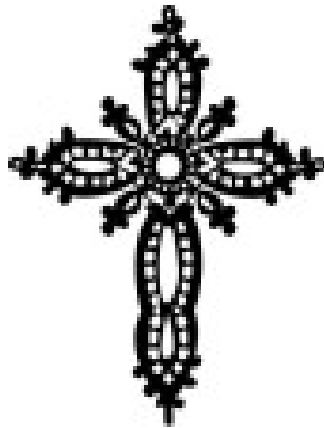
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*Keep, O Lord, we beseech thee, thy household the Church in thy steadfast faith and love, that by the help of thy grace we may proclaim thy truth with boldness, and minister thy justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## FROM THE RECTOR

Last week I expressed my gratitude to those who bring me church bulletins from parishes where they have been visitors. Among other benefits of that kindness is a broadened view of what is going on elsewhere.

Two church bulletins from opposite sides of the country crossed my desk not long ago – one from Portland, Oregon, the other from Southern Pines, North Carolina. The Oregon congregation described itself as “An Open and Welcoming Congregation”, while the North Carolina church said it is “An Open-Hearted, Open-Minded Parish of the Diocese of East Carolina.” In such descriptions, these churches are simply parroting the common parlance of the day. It may well be that these churches are just what they say they are, to which one might respond with “Amen” and applause.

But their self-descriptions beg this question: Are there any parishes which do not consider themselves open and welcoming? Have you ever seen a church which says that people should stay out? I do not mean something like the ornate Mormon shrine by the Beltway which limits admission to Mormons only. My observation pertains only to Episcopal churches, the household of which we are members.

I suspect that in some quarters (and I specifically do not imply anything about the two churches mentioned above), “open and welcoming” or “open minded” are shibboleths masking a form of inclusion that stands for nothing, or that includes every line of thinking other than historic Christian doctrine. Are we now afraid to say that being open and welcoming also means standing in and with the faith of historic Christianity?

St Francis aspires to be open-minded and welcoming, and I know we are surely open-hearted. Evidence of that is all around in many forms. We do not find it incompatible in the

least to adhere to the Tradition and body of faith that has been entrusted to us, and we continue to believe we can do that at the same time that we welcome the visitor to our midst. Were we to succumb to the myopic thinking that holds otherwise, we should fold our tents and stay home.

A few years ago, a young family came to St Francis during the summer. Although long-time members of churches seem to think nothing goes on in a church during the warm months, such thinking misses two central points. The primary point is that the most important thing the church does continues to go on, namely worship. Worship is the *raison d'être* for this or any church. To observe that not all members of the congregation take that as seriously as they should is by no means to accept or be resigned to neglect of our bounden duty and service. This young family was tending to its responsibility as disciples, but that is not all they were up to on that Sunday.

They were “church shopping”, a term some find offensive but which does not bother me in the long run. They were trying St Francis on for size, looking to see if this might be the place for them. A prime season for this sort of thing is the summer, which is the other point to consider when someone says nothing is going on in the summer. We get virtually no tourist trade here, a fact which is not surprising even though we are in the nation’s capital. But we do get visitors looking for a church home, and that is where the ministry of this parish extends to include all its members as potential hosts for the visitor in our midst, work that is as important, perhaps even more so, in the summer than other times of the year.

When this family joined a church, they told me of their decision and the reasons for it. Next time, I will tell you the rest of the story.

## A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

It is a great kindness to the Vestry if members will keep their pledges current during the summer.

Bear in mind that expenses continue on a regular business cycle, and we need to be able to operate with that same efficiency.



### SAVE THE DATE!

The Royal Society of Church Musicians will present a concert here at St. Francis on **Saturday, July 31st at 4:00 pm.**

Watch this space for more details about this special event.

## VESTRY NEWS

After more than three years of faithful service, George Maroulis has found it necessary to resign his seat on the Vestry. We are grateful to him for his past service as a Vestryman, as well as for his continued work with the Ushers and as a supporter of Student Ministries.

The parish by-laws specify that vacancies on the Vestry can be filled by action of that body. We propose to elect a successor to complete George's term, which has two and a half years to run. Please offer any suggestions for consideration to one of the Wardens or to me so that we can operate with a full complement.

## ATTENTION CLASS OF 2010 — AND PROUD PARENTS

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate those in our parish family who will graduate from high school, college, or graduate school this spring.

Please notify us with names, present school, and plans for any continued education. We must limit our listing to names and schools only – no honors, no matter how surely well-deserved.

Our intention is to publish our list in June 27 issue of Sounds so we need your information no later than June 18th.

## SENIOR'S CANAL CRUISE

On **Thursday, June 17th**, we will meet at Great Falls Historic Tavern to end our season with an 11am cruise on the C & O Canal aboard the packet boat Charles F. Mercer.

**Please be at the Tavern by 10:45 am** to purchase your ticket for the boat. Cost is \$5.00 The boat is handicapped accessible which will allow everyone to enjoy themselves comfortably.

You can reach the Tavern by driving to the end of Falls Road (at McArthur Blvd.) and taking a right into Great Falls park. After our boat trip, those who wish will drive down McArthur Blvd. to Old Angler's Inn for lunch.

Please call Christine at 301-365-2055 to **make your reservation by June 14th** for the boat trip and for lunch.

**COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH**

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

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13**

**HUNGER SUNDAY**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

**TUESDAY, JUNE 15**

6:30 pm Youth Bible Studies  
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft  
7:30 pm Vestry Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16**

10:00 am Holy Eucharist  
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17**

10:45 am Seniors assemble for trip on the Canal  
and lunch thereafter  
5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 6/27/10

**FRIDAY, JUNE 18**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

The Scripture appointed for the Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 21:1-21a, 2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15, Psalm 32, Galatians 2:15-21, Luke 7:36-8:3

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