

# SOUNDS

of

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*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring  
up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.*

**Isaiah 61:10-11**

## LISTEN UP!

If I had a nickel for every time an adult has told me how sorry they were to have given up their childhood piano lessons or the opportunity to sing in their church choir, I would not be rich. But my piggy bank certainly would be a good bit heavier. It's a comment to which I have never known how to respond. I suppose, "yeah, that's a shame," is about as good as any.

The fact is we know full well that it is too late to recapture bygone years. And I am not always convinced of the sincerity of these laments. Mind you, it is not that I want to suggest any one of them is mendacious. However, if one could go back, as it were, would one really make good on the desire to stick with it? I have my doubts.

Perhaps the undercoat of my jaded side is showing here. My tenure in church music began three and a half decades ago, after all, first as an apprentice and soon thereafter assistant organist of the 14,000-member Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. BIG church! BIG program! No doubt, I've seen a lot since early on. Given that experience, I can tell you honestly that in many respects our more modest-sized Potomac Parish is no different where the challenges of meaningful long-term dedication to the church and a refined music ministry are concerned. We face the same deterring "usual suspects": work demands, family pulls, sports enticements, social pressures, financial stresses, etc., etc. Somehow music can move quickly to the bottom of the priority list in such daunting company. It truly is a shame that something that contributes so positively to our cultural and spiritual lives – and can be nurtured over the course of a lifetime – is abandoned, seemingly, so readily.

As numbers have declined in our own beloved parish, it intensifies my concern of just where we will be in another 10 or 20 years. Mr Shand will not be here. Mr Thai will not be here. Mrs Mitchell will not be here. I doubt I will be here just as many of you will not be here. Who will be left and who will take our places? What will our liturgy look and sound like?

Well, let me direct your attention to some good

news by considering just two of our young musicians who have made a major impact on our corporate life together and have shown what true dedication looks like. I have written about others in the past and I will write about still others in the future. But right here, right now, two stand out. They are glimpses of what the future, hopefully, can and will look like.

Lauren Heywood began singing here, along with her sister, Lexi, as a young chorister. She came up through the ranks of the girl choir achieving status as Head Chorister and a subsequent appointment as Choral Scholar in the adult choir. Recently, she added to her responsibilities by singing with the Assisi Chamber Singers and serving as an assistant with the girl and boy choirs. Somehow, she managed to stay involved with her family, was active in the youth group, participated in sports, and enjoyed a lively social life. She graduated with high honors from St Andrew's this year and is headed to Dartmouth College early next month. Now don't ask me how she did it. Ask her! And talk to her parents.... I'm sure they just might have had something to do with it.

Lisa Johnsen is a rising high school sophomore. She, too, began early in the choirs of Potomac Parish and just completed her year as Head Chorister. Just last week she participated in the RSCM's course for Advanced Trebles here in DC. She represented us with great honor and dignity. Lisa now joins the adult choir as a Choral Scholar. In addition, she will serve as our new assistant to the girl and boy choirs, a duty about which she approached me. That kind of initiative is absolutely thrilling, I must say. Let me encourage you to talk to her parents, as well. There is no substitute for the support given from home.

I'll conclude this article and begin my next article with that very theme. Do you truly consider St Francis your parish home? I sincerely hope the answer is yes. And if it is yes, ask what are you going to do to help maintain it? Musically, I can assist, but it will involve your help and dedication.

Stay tuned.... Gary Davison, O-C

## PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A ST. FRANCIS LAYREADER!

Training for new Layreaders will be scheduled during September/October of this year. We hope you will consider joining the St. Francis Layreaders!

The duties are to assist the priests by reading the lessons and, for Holy Communion, administer the chalice to the parishioners at the altar rail. The term Layreader is shorthand for both Reader and Chalcist.

It is a very rewarding form of worship participation. It places you up front and close to the altar activities where you may gain a deeper understanding of the liturgy.

You will receive comprehensive training on the duties so that you are very confident as you begin either reading or the administration of the chalice.

The training will consist of two evening sessions of one and one half hour duration each. The first session will teach you the techniques of voice projection. It is NOT a class on public speaking! We are reading the bible or prayer book. Projecting our voice so that the congregation is able to hear clearly and with attention is the key for a Layreader.

The second session will teach you the fine points of being a member of a team consisting of a priest and a chalcist who administer the holy elements to the congregants at the altar rail. At the conclusion of the training you will have the skills to be confident and proficient in this duty.

The Layreader schedule will have you serving approximately every six weeks or so.

Please give this serious consideration! To discuss your possible participation or to get questions answered, please call Devar Burbage at 301-424-1993 daytime or evening.

## JOY AND CONCERN

Please join us in prayer for Theodore Tutera, father of Carol Tutera, and George F. Schaeffgen, uncle of John Schaeffgen, who died this month.

Please pray for Mr. Thai who is ill.

## FOOD DRIVE AT THE COUNTY FAIR 8/13-8/21

Manna Food Center is partnering with the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair to hold a county wide food drive at this year's fair. Bring your non-perishable food donations to the fair in Gaithersburg on August 13-21. Manna collection bins will be located at both entrance gates to the fair. Our goal is to collect 10,000 lbs of food!

Manna is the only food bank in Montgomery County and each year they provide emergency food to 100,000 residents in need. Forty-three local nonprofits including soup kitchens, emergency shelters and food pantries, rely on Manna to provide the food they need to run their programs.

This winter is predicted to be the most challenging one yet and Manna needs your help to restock our shelves. Bring your non-perishable food donations to the County Fair this year - you can make a real difference fighting hunger and feeding hope!

## MUSICAL REFLECTIONS IN A SACRED SPACE.

On Friday evening, Sept 10th, at 8 pm, Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1820 Connecticut Ave, NW (Dupont Circle), will present organist Theodore M. Guerrant in "Musical Reflections in a Sacred Space," an hour of music recalling those whose lives were lost in the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001. There will be baskets at the rear of the nave for donations to Charlie's Place, an outreach ministry of St. Margaret's. A light reception will follow in the parish hall. The public is cordially invited. For more information or directions see [www.stmargaretsdc.org](http://www.stmargaretsdc.org).

## COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH

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

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

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

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

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

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

8:00 am Loaves & Fishes Preparation

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 02

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Loaves & Fishes Delivery  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

The Scripture appointed for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost:  
Isaiah 61:10-11, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 1:46-55, Psalm 34 or 34:1-9

The Scripture appointed for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost:  
Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6 or Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

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