

SOUNDS

of

Volume 40 No. 31

August 29, 2010

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Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LISTEN UP

Last issue, I asked you to consider whether or not St Francis was truly your parish home and if so what you could do to maintain it. I voiced concern as to our future parish without the current Rector, Sexton, Sunday School Director, or Choirmaster, as well as the absence of many of our current membership over the next 10 to 20 years. (Perhaps that's not such a bleak image, after all, for some! LOL*) And then I highlighted two choristers, Lauren Heywood and Lisa Johnsen, who are making positive contributions by their dedicated service in the choirs, showing us what the future can look like. After all, neither of them was an active choir member much before ten years ago. They are now what the future was then. Hopefully, this was a simple but effective device in turning a lament into rejoicing, a worry into reassurance.

I know 2020 and 2030 seem like a long way off. But it's already been ten years since the dawn of our new millennium (remember the 21st Century Project?). It was fifteen years ago I accepted the post of O-C here, and our Rector, Sexton, and Sunday School Director each have served faithfully for well over two decades now. Include the rest of the staff and we're hovering around the century mark of combined tenure. That's a wonderful – and remarkable – testament to the stability of this Christian body we call home and its leadership. And I will hasten to tip my hat to the long line of excellent wardens this parish has been fortunate to have.

So, why am I entralling you so with all of this? Here's why: Lauren is leaving for college and Lisa is only a few years behind her. Catch my meaning? While we have several very fine choristers coming up through our program, it is not enough to maintain the pattern as it exists for much longer. Numbers don't lie. There is only one boy. There are fifteen girls divided amongst three choirs ranging in age from grades 1-12. Those are quite small numbers.

In addition, we have only one volunteer soprano in the adult choir; she joins us late in the Fall term due to teaching the Communion Enrichment class.

Only one tenor volunteers and he is able to attend sporadically at best. The alto section fares slightly better with three volunteers and the bass section leads the pack with four. Take away our section leaders and choral scholars and that's a frightening prospect for any Choirmaster, let me assure you. On the other hand, we are blessed with some very fine section leaders and our choral scholars cast a wide net of pride and joy. Professional musicians have a long history in the church, don't forget, and in no way does their employment deplete the sincerity and meaning of our worship. I would suggest it does quite the opposite, in fact.

No doubt, St Francis is a smaller church than it was 10 years ago and we have scaled back and adapted with appropriate changes in program. We will continue to do so, God willing. That's "all good," as we say, and as it should be. One of the many things on which Mr Shand and I agree is that playing to the numbers alone is not the way to build and sustain healthy program and right worship. On that score, I maintain, we have been faithful stewards to that our *raison d'être*. We also agree that making music, especially on a more refined level such as we offer here, is not for everybody. It is a magnificent benefit to all of us, however, as a magnifying adornment in our corporate liturgies. We have no plans to change that, I'm happy to report. Some consolidation may need to occur but it will not impact the integrity and solemnity of our liturgies involving music.

As we gear up for the launch of another program year, please take the time to consider well the opportunities you have to invest your own time, talent, and treasure. Most of all, just come to church! It's so much better when you do. Besides, we won't always be here, you know, and the past is just that. Remember those piano lessons you now wish you hadn't quit?

Stay tuned....

* *"Laugh out loud," for those of you blessed souls not tainted by the degenerate Internet lingo of the current ten minutes.*

Gary Davison, O-C

POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR

AUCTION 2010

The biggest news is that this year we will have **on-line auction only**. Of course, we will still have the **Friday Night Kickoff Party from 7 to 9PM** at the St. Francis Church Hall featuring entertainment, boutiques, a wine tasting, and access to the on-line auction.

As with any auction, the success depends on the quantity and quality of the items being auctioned and we are asking you to help by donating something to the cause.

Just a few ideas include:

- Art works, books, figurines, etc.
- Themed cooking classes (e.g. romantic, ethnic, One Pot meals);
- Landscape design (or just yard work);
- Interior design (or just painting etc);
- Dinner parties, wine tastings, etc.
- A craft session to create a scrapbook, make greeting cards; design a necklace; or share any other craft/skill which you have;
- Babysitting or other chores.

The possibilities are endless. If you are down-sizing, you could donate one of your beloved possessions while helping others in need. We invite you to think of what you can share to make this auction a success.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW ?

THE HOMES

- **A Variety of Home Designs** - We have a fascinating contemporary, a mansion, a newly renovated colonial, and a beautiful townhome
- The contemporary home, **David Jameson's Jigsaw**, is featured in the September issue of **Architectural Digest**
- Parishioners **Jerry and Julie Gilbert** generously offered their spacious River Falls Townhome featuring the paintings of for-

JOY AND CONCERN

Please pray for William Frederick Johnson who is ill.

Please remember in your prayers Elaine Stone and Lula Whatley, mother of John Whatley, who died.

House Tour continued

mer parishioner, **Judy Manthorpe** of Potomac

- **Spaces for grand entertaining:** Swarovski crystal chandeliers; iron sculpted staircases; and a space 8 years in the planning, reminiscent of an European estate
- **A Stunning backyard with English garden** in the renovated colonial which also features **a suite for young pirates.**

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

IN ST. FRANCIS HALL

- **Twenty Boutiques** - We have some wonderful vendors this year, both familiar favorites and new folks to pique your interest. Get gifts for family, friends, and perhaps yourself!
- The **Maryland Sweets Café** featuring the state of Maryland's official dessert, the many-layered Smith Island Cake, and a selection of St. Francis' favorite desserts with a Maryland Flair.

Keep watching these pages for more information about this year's House Tour, that famous dessert, and much more!.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPT. 12TH

Please do our Volunteer Sunday School Teachers a kindness and return your registration forms as soon as possible so we can be ready for all the students! If you have not received your forms, please e-mail us at cmitchell@stfrancispotomac.org. Thank you.

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 9/12/10

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

RENEWAL SUNDAY

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

Ice Cream Social follows the 10 am service

ONGOING THIS WEEK

Please register your students in Sunday School.
Forms may be sent via mail or by fax
to 301-365-7500.

Please submit your forms in advance, so the
teachers can better prepare for their classes .

The Scripture appointed for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-5, 13-17 or Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1;
Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

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