

SOUNDS

OF

Volume 40 No. 33

September 12, 2010

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*O God, forasmuch as without thee
we are not able to please thee,
mercifully grant that thy Holy
Spirit may in all things direct and
rule our hearts; through Jesus
Christ our Lord, who with thee and
the same Spirit liveth and reigneth,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

FROM THE RECTOR

Two transitions in the clergy ranks may be of interest to members of this parish, and both are occasions for prayerful reflection. What ties them together is that they concern priests who served at St Francis in their seminary years: The Rev'd William P. Billow retired in the spring from his position as Senior Chaplain at St Albans School. The Rev'd Nathaniel Luke Back has just begun his time as Rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest in Abilene, Texas. Some thoughts are in order concerning Will and Luke.

I have known no priest of this diocese longer than I have known Will. When I entered Virginia Seminary, Will was in his final year. He was part of a distinguished clique gathered around the wise and hospitable Annilee Thornhill Brown. One did not apply for membership in that group, but being part of it changed my time in seminary profoundly, and my life was enriched by those friendships beyond measure. I also learned no small amount of theological truth with them, although it was hardly in the curriculum of the seminary.

Will spent two years here as a seminarian, and it is no exaggeration to say he loved this church a great deal. I first heard of Potomac Parish in listening to stories he told. After his ordination, Will returned to Illinois for two years, but soon was back in Washington, first at St Columba's, and then at St Albans. During that time his friendship with Bishop John Walker was cemented. Bishop Walker rightly discerned in Will someone of remarkable abilities for the challenging vocation of school ministry, and the bond between them was one of deepest respect and affection, not dissimilar from the best between a father and son. Part of that bond was their mutual warm feeling for St Francis. Thus when Will told Bishop Walker and Pam Ramsey, who chaired the search committee looking for a rector for Potomac Parish, that he knew someone they should consider,

they listened. My debt of gratitude to Will is as fresh today as it was in 1987.

St Albans has shown excellent judgment by asking Will to maintain his ties to the school as a link to their alumni. The young men who are presently students at St Albans will not have the benefit of Will's loving pastoral leadership, but the alumni will, and the Billow Blessings for St Albans will continue.

Luke Back was a successor, as it were, to Will, serving as our seminarian a decade ago (and two decades after Will), 2000-2002. It was readily apparent that his vocation to priesthood was authentic in every respect. Upon ordination, Luke served at St Paul's Cathedral, Oklahoma City, where his father was Dean. Such a call created an anomalous situation, but Luke was just the right person to serve faithfully and with consummate grace. In the St Paul's Cathedral newsletter, this synopsis caught the moment: "Some at St Paul's have watched the boy grow into a young man who went to seminary, then came back to become a cherished and respected priest by the congregation where he grew up." Anyone who harbors doubts about the difficulty of that kind of ministry might be interested in the story found in Luke 4:16-30.

Now Luke and Meredith, with their three children, will become part of a new parish. This one, too, has family ties, for Abilene and Heavenly Rest are already home to Meredith's parents. The website of their new parish has some wonderful words and pictures of welcome: The address is www.chrabilene.com, and Luke's first sermon there is available from that site. What a grand chapter has just begun for the Church of the Heavenly Rest, Abilene. Both of these clerical transitions are occasions for prayers of thanksgiving, and that God will pour down upon them both the continual dew of his blessing.

HOUSE TOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



House Tour is fast approaching and once again, we are looking for Hostesses for the homes, Parkers for the cars, and Servers for the Luncheon.

The House Tour needs 400 volunteers on October 2nd and 3rd to make it work! We're quite a bit away from that number. As you step forward to volunteer, invite a friend or neighbor to come with you! People who have done this have enjoyed sharing this time together.

Please do not wait for someone to call and invite you to volunteer: **Be pro-active and volunteer now.** Please contact Diane Seward at 301-983-8758 or by e-mail at trina65@verizon.net.

OUTREACH SUNDAY - SEPT. 26!

PLEASE BRING FOOD FOR MANNA FOOD DRIVE

On the weekend before the House Tour, representatives of the agencies that St. Francis supports attend the Adult Education Hour and share their stories with us. Most of the agencies will have materials and staff available to talk with members of the parish, and a few will offer brief remarks.

This is a reminder of the purpose of the House Tour: to enable us to offer support to many agencies that help meet the critical needs of the less fortunate in our community and around the world.

Please join us in welcoming them to St. Francis and learning more about their work. Perhaps you will even find a volunteer opportunity that you would like to pursue. Come and see what might interest you!

We will also be holding a food drive, with the proceeds donated to the Manna Food Center. Last year we had a very successful food drive, and the need is even greater this

JOY AND CONCERN

Congratulations to Sandy and Fred Meloan on the birth of grandson Trevor Quinlin Shelton, born Aug. 30, 2010 to Christian and Allison King Shelton

Outreach Sunday Continued

year. Please help out this important ministry which is increasingly stretched by the numbers of "newly hungry" families

A NOTE ABOUT MANNA

The number of families coming to Manna each week are shocking and a clear indication that the economy continues to make it difficult for many working residents to put food on the table. In an effort to make food assistance available to residents who cannot get to their Main Warehouse or Satellite Site during the week, Manna will add a new weekend distribution option starting on Saturday, October 9, 2010. The weekend distribution hours will be on the second Saturday of every month from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at their Main Warehouse in Gaithersburg.

They hope the new weekend distribution will help parents who work during the week or who must rely on others for transportation to access the food they need to feed their families through these difficult times.

SENIOR LUNCH

The first meeting of the Saavy Seniors will be at **Noon on September 16th in the Kincaid Library.** We will "firm up" the tentative schedule from the previous meeting. **Bring a brown bag lunch and a beverage...**the more of us, the merrier!

If you do not have or use email, please let Sue Tull know, so we can notify you of additional information or schedule changes. Her number is 301-299-8799.

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

HUNGER SUNDAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

10:30 am Grounds Committee

5:00 pm Youth Choirs

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

7:30 pm Communications Committee

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 9/26/10

5:30 pm Youth Ministry-Franks

6:30 pm 3rd Thursday Vespers

7:30 pm St Francis Choir

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Morning Prayer

11:15 am Holy Eucharist

5:00 pm High School Bible Study

The Scripture appointed for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9 or Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

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.

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Periodical postage paid at Rockville, MD 20850.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sounds of St. Francis, 10033 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854