

SOUNDS

Of

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October 18, 2009

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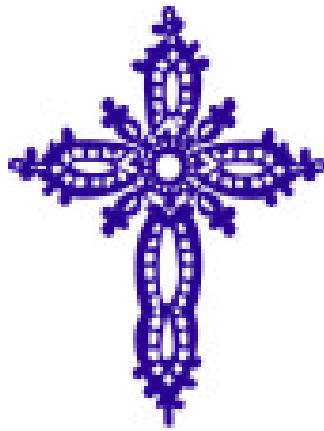
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Almighty God, who didst inspire thy servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of thy son; Graciously continue in thy Church the like love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of thy name; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR

The motto of the State of South Carolina is *Dum spiro spero: While I breathe, I hope*. It is said the motto was adopted in 1776, just before a time of great trial and tribulation for that state and her twelve sisters. In my days as a graduate student of history, my mentor; Dr George C. Rogers, Jr., then the “dean of South Carolina historians” used to say that this spirit of optimism had set the right tone for South Carolina and the new nation at the dawn of our independence. George was one of those people who practiced what he preached, for his outlook on life was eternally optimistic.

In my years as a priest, I have come to understand hope as something different, and far more salutary than optimism alone. By no means wishing to disparage optimism, I find it more comforting to rely on hope, especially hope that is, as our Prayer Book puts it, “sure and certain.”

Last week I had the privilege to preach at the funeral of our parishioner Jack Heise. Long known in College Park as “Mr. Maryland”, Jack was associated with the University of Maryland as few others in our time have been. People at the 8:00 service were kind to allow us to have a weekly review of the state of select football and basketball teams, and they did not seem to mind it took longer to get out of church during those seasons. His funeral was in the Memorial Chapel at College Park, and it seemed appropriate to reprint part of it in this space. This is an expression of the heart of our belief as Christians.

“What can I say to encourage you this morning? Jack lived and died in what

Christians understand as ‘sure and certain hope.’ That is language from our Prayer Book. Sure and certain hope. The Christian means something more than the world does by those words.

“If you ask, ‘Will the Terrapins win the ACC this season (you pick the sport)?’ it is reasonable to say, ‘I hope so.’ When we put it that way we know that there are reasons why such a victory might not take place, even with the best of efforts. Jack never forgot that conventional wisdom which rightly holds that games are never decided on paper; that’s why we play the game. So, in the world of athletics, as in all most all other fields of human endeavor, hope is a qualified, conditional asset in that sense.

It is not so for the Christian. To the Christian hope is sure and certain. It is the reason to endure, to prevail, to taste victory even when the odds are stacked against you and seem as inescapable and insurmountable as death itself. Hope is drawn from the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it is in that sure and certain hope that Jack lived, and has now received new and eternal life.”

So life is more than a matter of hope while we breathe. Our hope as Christians means that when we no longer have nor need breath, we shall still have life. That truth is sure and certain.



SUNDAY SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP

Sunday School class time on October 18 will be devoted to the Sunday School Outreach Program. When they leave the Service of Morning Prayer, all students and teachers in **Grades 1 - 6** will meet in St. Francis Hall.

The students will then participate in Outreach Centers. These centers will include one of our favorite activities - making bag lunches for the **Chase Partnership Housing** in Rockville.



Students will hear about soldiers who are recovering from injuries and will make cards to cheer them. **John Fraser** will tell students about Stewardship and specific ways they can use their time, talent and money to help others. They will have the opportunity to help patients at **Children's INN at NIH** by making a special winter mailbox surprise.



All **registered** students will receive their new **Offertory Envelopes** this Sunday as well. The money collected each week in these envelopes goes toward funding Sunday School Outreach projects. We also support various organizations which help children in our local area as well as the greater Anglican Communion.

PARENTS - Be sure your child has their box of envelopes and the information letter about the Sunday School Outreach Program when they leave!



JOY AND CONCERN

Please join us in prayer for Jack Heise who died .

Congratulations to Fan & Merv Oleson on the birth of their new grandson, Elijah James Oleson, son of Duane and Sue Oleson of Palm City, FL, who was born Saturday, October 3rd.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TIME CHANGED

The Memorial Service on Saturday, October 24th for Pamela Ramsey will be held at 3:00 pm, not 11:00 am as previously scheduled.

WE NEED YOUR EMPTY COFFEE CANS!

Mr. Thai and the Petal Pushers would appreciate your help in recycling your empty 1 pound coffee cans here at the church. Mr. Thai repaints them and they are used as vases for the flower bouquets which the Petal Pushers distribute each week. We are running low on our supply and your emptied containers will be greatly appreciated.



CHALICIST TRAINING THIS TUESDAY

The second class in the Layreader Training will be held this Tuesday Evening at 7:30 pm in St. Francis Church. New trainees and experienced Chalicist's are invited to attend this session. Contact Devar Burbage or Christine at the office, 301-365-2055, for additional details.

COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Morning Prayer
11:15 am Holy Eucharist
1:00 pm Confirmation Class

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft
7:30 Vestry Meeting
7:30 pm Lay Reader Training—Church

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 11/1
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:30 pm St Francis Choir
7:30 pm Book Club—Youth Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

3:00 pm Memorial Service—Pamela Ramsey
(Please note change in time)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:15 am Morning Prayer
1:00 pm Confirmation Class

The Scripture appointed for the Feast of St. Luke
Ecclesiasticus 38:1-4,6-10,12-14, 2 Timothy 4:5-13, Luke 4:14-21, Psalm 147 or 147:1-7

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