

SOUNDS

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Volume 39 No. 43

November 22, 2009



Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR

The work schedule some of us on the church staff follow sends us home in the first hours of darkness. Several nights each week, the Glenolden house shines with bright warmth across the playing field. That light is a sign that one of the youth groups is in session. The ostensible purpose of the session is a Bible study, but those evenings also include food, video games, and fellowship. To borrow the phrase from Acts, week by week the Lord is adding to their numbers (Acts 2:46-47).

The warm glow of that lighted house is profoundly reassuring. At the risk of descending into the sentimental, the thought often arises that at that particular hour, engaged in those particular activities, the young people present are, as James Montgomery wrote (Hymn 480), “safe from the world’s alluring harms.” To be sure, the purpose of the work going on in that house and in that ministry is not really self-defense, but edification. When all is said and done, edification – through worship, teaching, preaching, and education – might well be what this parish does best. It is an old fashioned word, but it is also a biblical one, and it points to a biblical goal. That shining house symbolizes the important work.

To step aside from the image of the youth house, the theme of edification still obtains. In St Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, that theme is eloquently expressed. Read and consider his words in Ephesians 4:11-32. The Apostle is not lecturing the Church about any of the “hot button issues” of his day or ours. To the contrary, he is speaking of the purpose of the Church’s ministry, ministry which is intended ultimately to bring the believer to maturity in Christ, to protect the believer from “every wind of doctrine”, and to promote the growth

of the body of believers not just in numbers but in the love of Christ. That is edification.

From various quarters have come appeals for the financial support we need to operate and to pursue the purposes of our parish’s ministry. There is a cause and effect relationship between having specific opportunities in mission and ministry and the parish’s ability to meet its vocation. Regardless of the economic climate, that cause and effect relationship is always affected more by our willingness to respond than by our ability to do so. This year is no exception. Please keep that candid observation in mind.

A fine book of recent years is Peter Ackroyd’s excellent work *London: The Biography*. Ackroyd is a brilliant writer whose skills run from the traditional biography to creative novels. This work is a collection of short essays on the long, storied history of that wonderful city. One of the most descriptive passages recounts medieval London in the time of Henry III (1216-1272), an unsettled epoch. In consideration of the city during an unsettled time, Ackroyd writes that “the most striking scene is perhaps that of the dark and silent city, barricaded [at night] against the outer world.”

Is it a stretch to say the glow of the Glenolden house reminds me of that description? Edification, among youth programs or any other parish endeavor, is not a barricade. It is, however, the work of the Church as it seeks to be built up into the maturity Christ intended for those who love and follow him. It is our only reliable defense against the “world’s alluring harms.”



ST. JAMES' PRISON AFTER CARE MINISTRY

"I was in prison and you came to me."

- Matthew 25:36

Winter 2010 Training Classes

Have you ever thought you might be interested in working with individuals who are in prison and preparing for their release into society. If so, you are invited to join members of St. James Episcopal in Potomac for valuable training and support for mentoring an inmate at Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF), Clarksburg or Montgomery County Pre-Release and Reentry Services (PRRS), .

Classes in English will take place Saturday, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, at St. James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD.

The schedule of classes is:

January 9 - Introduction to Prison After Care Ministry

January 16 - Listening Skills – Part 1

January 23 - Listening Skills – Part 2

January 30 - Drug and Alcohol Addiction – Part 1

February 6 - Drug and Alcohol Addiction – Part 2

February 13 (or 20) - What to do in the first meeting Q & A

Dates and times will be announced for :

-A Tour and orientation at the Montgomery County PRRS and a tour of the MCCF

For more information about the class, please contact Jim Finch, (H) 301-340-1376 or at e-mail: machina1@comcast.net or Mary Wasik, 301-519-9426, email: wasik@starpower.net. They will be happy to answer any of your questions.

JOY AND CONCERN

Congratulations to newly married couples
Elizabeth Harrison & Donald Carmelite
and
Cherry Dearie & John Anthony Smith.

A RETREAT FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

A Women's Day of Reflection and Sharing: A Retreat for Cancer Survivors, led by the Rev. Kathleen V. Price, is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 21 at Oakley Hall, 21659 Oakley Road, Avenue, Md. It is open to anyone regardless of faith practice/belief. A \$15 donation is requested to cover the cost of lunch, refreshments and a book on hope. For further information or to register, contact KVPrice11@aol.com or 240/538-1704 (cell) or 301/769-2258 (office). Goal: To build community among survivors and give survivors added strength, courage, self confidence and hope.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2009 CONFIRMANDS

Please join us in congratulating the following people on their Confirmation at the National Cathedral on November 7th.

Drew Aherne

Elizabeth Celi

Chris Celi

Emma Crutchfield

Brittany Davis

John Duncan

Rebecca Ewel

Sara Ewel

Katie Hunter

Katie Jannotta

Lisa Johnsen

Suzanne Johnson

Katie McNeilly

Jeffrey Plamondon

Katie Smith

Olivia Stanhope

Morgan Taverner

Caitlyn Young

TREASURER'S REPORT

While our Stewardship focus during this season should be on the spiritually appropriate response to the considerable blessings of our lives, a parishioner's responsibilities also include an awareness of such things as budgets, salaries and costs required to operate a Parish such as St. Francis. All of the good programs and activities that go on here cost money. Did you know that, based upon the very lean budget adopted last January, it takes \$3,220 a day to keep the doors open at St. Francis. \$3,220 a day!

As many of you will recall from the last annual meeting, our 2009 Operating Budget was indeed very lean. The Vestry adopted a balanced budget and disciplined our expenses in many areas. I think it is important for you to recall that the 2009 Operating Budget did not include any salary increase for any of the wonderful people who work for us. I know the Vestry hopes to do better than that this year and is counting on you feeling the same way.

Finally, let me report on how we are doing after the first three quarters of this year with our budget. Generally we are sticking pretty close to budget. Except for utilities, expenses are at or under budget. Revenues are close to budget, although pledge revenues are slightly behind. I believe we have a good possibility of completing the year with a balanced operating budget and know we can do so if we all respond generously and diligently finish off or exceed our pledges. Being able to report that we achieved a balanced operating budget at the annual meeting would be good news indeed!

I will stop here on this positive note, but at least foreshadow that we will need to discuss at the Annual Meeting our needs in the area of capital improvements and maintenance,

needs that are not covered or addressed in our operating budget.

Respectfully,
Gary Bachman, Treasurer

CHRISTMAS FLORAL MEMORIALS

You are invited again to remember your loved ones this Christmas by making a donation for the Christmas flowers and greens. All of the beautiful decorations in and around the church during the holidays depend on this one source of income, and what better way to honor those you love at this joyous season?.



If you would like to make a contribution, please fill out one of the forms available on the table outside the office and return it with your check to Christine in the office.

Donations must be received no later than December 15th so we can ensure that your acknowledgements are made correctly. Please note on your check that it is for **Christmas Flowers**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that all contributions to St. Francis Episcopal Church to be included in your 2009 Charitable Contributions Statement and therefore tax deductible for 2009, must be received at the church office no later than 12:00 noon on December 31, 2009. The office will close early that day for the New Year's holiday.

In compliance with IRS regulations and consistent with the parish's auditing firm's standards, contributions and gifts received after noon on December 31 will be on the 2010 Charitable Contributions reports, even if they are credited to 2009 pledges.

ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND MUSIC

The third event on our Music at Eventide 2009-2010 series takes place on Sunday, December 6th at 5:30 in the parish church. The Advent Festival of Lessons and Music is a long-established service held here at Saint Francis Church. It provides an opportunity for all choirs of our parish to gather and lead us in marking the beginning of the church year and to sharpen our focus on Advent, a season of preparation leading us to a fuller understanding of our celebration of the Nativity, which is to come.

Come hear again the readings from Holy Scripture that tell the story of the fall of sinful man in the garden of Eden and God's ensuing promise of redemption through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus. The choral music offered by the choirs and the congregational hymns are chosen to reflect on these passages and meant to help anchor us more securely in heart and mind as we wait with joyful expectation for the coming of our Lord and Savior.

This year's service will feature music by Ord, Vaughan Williams, Walmisley, Manz, and Wood, in addition to traditional Advent hymns and plainsong. A reception follows in Saint Francis Hall to which all cordially are invited (no reservations necessary).

I hope you will join us for this treasured annual occasion.

Gary Davison, O-C

A CORRECTION & AN APOLOGY

The name of Steve Wilson, our Junior Warden, was omitted from his Stewardship Message in last week's Sounds. We apologize for this error which was due to a glitch in the off-site printing of that edition.



Join St. Nicolas for Story Time and Pottery Painting!

Wednesday, December 9th

4:30pm - 6pm

St. Francis Hall



St. Nicolas will come and tell the children about himself – did you know that he put gold coins in young girls' stockings that were hung by the fire – sound familiar? (Don't tell the kids, but there might be a surprise in their shoes at the end of the night!) Then the children can paint pottery pieces to give as Christmas gifts to their grandparents, teachers, etc. Choose from ornaments (approx \$5), mugs (approx \$15), tiles (approx \$5), plates (approx \$10), and more.

There is no charge to come see St. Nicolas, but pottery will be charged per piece. (You can pick it up at church after it has been fired.)

THIS IS A REAL KIDS' FAVORITE – DON'T MISS IT!

RSVP required by December 2nd

so we have enough pottery and paint for all.

Contact 301-365-2055 or
ctetrault@stfrancispotomac.org



FOOD DRIVE

*In the spirit of St. Nicolas,
please bring non-perishable
food for a food drive.*

COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

UTO OFFERING SUNDAY

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Holy Eucharist
Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Holy Eucharist

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Vestry Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

5:00 pm Sounds Deadline for 12/06
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study
6:30 pm Thanksgiving Liturgy

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
Office Closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:30 am Loaves & Fishes Preparation—Kitchen

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:30 am Loaves & Fishes Delivery & Service
9:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 Family Advent Wreath-making Event
11:15 am Morning Prayer

The Scripture appointed for the Last Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 23:1-7, Psalm 132:1-13, (14-19) or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, Psalm 93 ; Revelation 1:4b-8,
John 18:33-37

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