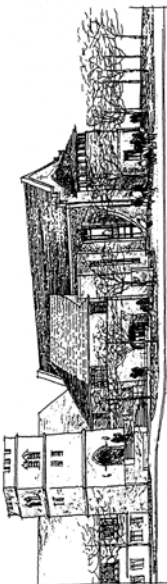


December  
2011

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

My first sighting this year was the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

It is true that I had been in South Sudan the previous ten days so perhaps things had already been well under way, and I was simply late to the party. It was early morning, the light struggling to break through the lingering night. It was misting; the wipers having trouble clearing rather than smearing the windshield. But there was no mistaking what I saw. Glaring out of the semi-darkness, garish colors communicating a garbled message, blessed holiday lights. Oh what rapture! And to think that we will be able to enjoy them well into March of next year. Is there no limit to such goodness?

While in South Sudan I heard myself addressing the Bishops on their retreat, saying, "It is important to remember that all ministry is derivative from Christ's self offering on the Cross." In stating this so clearly and in that setting I realize what a core conviction this is for me. I was reflecting on that truth when the holiday lights made their unexpected appearance.

That odd juxtaposition of what I was thinking and what I was seeing deepens my sense of gratitude for the gift of the church year. Advent begins a journey that briefly lingers for twelve day at Christmas but whose destination is ever before us – the Cross. It is interesting, is it not, that Saint Paul tells us in the earliest reference to the Eucharist that we have in the bible, I Corinthians 11:26, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." The darkness has not been overcome by our efforts to paper it over with parties and props. It has come at a terrible cost.

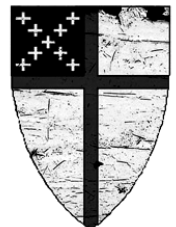
The calendar of the church offers us at least three important gifts. The first and most important is that it acts as a counterweight to the priorities of the world. Crass consumerism and materialism does not suffice as proper Advent preparation for the birth of the world's Savior. Second the calendar of the church provides seasons of work and rest, reflection and penitence, joy and wonder. These truths reflect the realities of our lives far better than the categories the world would have us embrace. Finally the calendar of the church forces us to take our gaze off ourselves and to direct our attention to Him who is our judge and savior. The more that our attention is directed toward God and our neighbors the more we are likely to grow into the full stature of Christ.

So enjoy the holiday lights. Just don't expect them to provide what only the true light can illumine.

May the Peace of the Lord always be with you.

Faithfully,

*Andrew*



**Adult Forum Schedule: Dec. 3– Dec. 25**

**Dec. 3 9 am-12 pm Advent Quiet Morning**  
 Start the Advent season off with a healthy dose of silence. Instead of being overwhelmed by all the noise and chaos that fills most of the time leading up to Christmas, come to an Advent Quiet Morning on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. St. John of the Cross, a 16th century monk, wrote, “The Father spoke one word from all eternity and he spoke it in silence, and it is in silence that we hear it.” Give yourself the gift of silence and take time to listen to what God is saying during this most wonderful season. Find a sign-up sheet in Paca Hall.


**Dec. 4 10:15 am The Advent Collects**  
 We are blessed with many liturgical sources of prayer. The collects for Advent are a particularly rich source for contemplation. Seminarian Andrew Terry will explore this part of our tradition.

**5:00 pm ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS**

**Dec. 11 10:15 am ICONS: Yes, Just Like Those But Different**  
 Explore the history of religious icons and how they may be incorporated into your spiritual life. (And yes, find out why those things on our computers are called “icons.”) Led by the Rev. Grant Ambrose

**Dec. 17 9:00 am Communion Preparation for Children**

**Dec. 18 10:15 am COFFEE HOUR**

**Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE (Saturday)**   
 2:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Pageant  
 4:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Pageant  
 8:00 pm Holy Eucharist  
 10:30 pm Carols & Music  
 11:00 pm Holy Eucharist

**Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY (Sunday)**  
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist



**Adopt a Family For Christmas!**

Please consider "adopting" a family this Christmas Season! Through the Child and Family Network Center, St. Mary's is once again "adopting" nine families from the Virginia Gardens Preschool located in South Arlington. Each family has provided us with a wishlist of needs, including educational toys, books and warm clothes for the cold winter months. All gifts should be wrapped and delivered to St. Mary's by Wednesday, December 14. There will be a sign-up and instructions available in Paca Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Yeonas at [703-748-0040](tel:703-748-0040) or [eyeonas@cox.net](mailto:eyeonas@cox.net).

**20s & 30s**

Interested in a good movie? Enjoy brunch? Why not put both together and come to St. Mary's the first Sunday in December (December 4, 2011). Following the 11:15am service (around 12:30 pm), we will gather in the parish vestry for a potluck brunch and viewing the movie *The Nativity Story*. Conversation will follow. We will also provide a sneak-peak of other community events. For more information contact the Reverend Grant Ambrose in the church office: [Grant.Ambrose@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:Grant.Ambrose@stmarysarlington.org).

Due to your generosity we sent \$1,657.25 to United Thank Offering (UTO) which, in turn, will support domestic and international grants aimed to improve the way of life for others. Thank you!

## OUTREACH IN OUR BACKYARD

### SOME

St. Mary's has been cooking and serving breakfast on the first Monday of the month for clients of So Others Might Eat (SOME) in Northwest D.C. for eight and a half years. After buying and delivering the food the day before, we cook pancakes (50 pounds of mix stirred by hand by Gordon Ochenrider), flood them with gallons of maple syrup, add 30 pounds of sausage links and serve them with 160 pounds of bananas.

The food costs between \$250 and \$300 each month. Four or five of us arrive at SOME by 6:30 am and cook the meal, another 8 to 10 come in 45 minutes later to serve the food, set up, provide coffee and welcome the clients. We typically feed and serve between 350 to 400 clients of SOME at a cost of less than \$1 per meal. Over the course of our ministry, we have made at least 70,000 pancakes (burning a fair number) and cooked and served at least 35,000 meals. It is extraordinarily gratifying to know that devoting a few hours a month can bring nourishment to so many. In November, the St. Mary's team served 357 people breakfast. *By George Covucci*

### AFAC

The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is the only organization in Arlington devoted solely to providing dignified access to nutritious, supplemental groceries--free of charge--to our neighbors in need. In doing so, AFAC makes it possible for vulnerable families in our community to devote their limited resources to financial obligations such as housing, utilities, and other basic needs.

Currently, St. Mary's supports AFAC through grants and through the canned good offerings received each Sunday in Children's Chapel. AFAC also has been supported through our youth Second Sundays@6 effort that transformed 900 lbs. of rice and oats into one pound bags for distribution to families.

In October 2011, the Arlington Food Assistance Center served 7,790 families. Nearly 40% of the people AFAC serves are children. This was AFAC's highest frequency of service in a one month period since its founding 23 years ago. AFAC met this extraordinary need head-on, without cutbacks to food allocation or turning anyone away hungry.

Families need a referral to receive food from AFAC. Referrals can come from an Arlington County government agency or one of many local churches, schools or social service agencies. This system ensures that AFAC's clients are legitimate, and that all of their needs are being assessed and addressed.

AFAC's website is [www.afac.org](http://www.afac.org). Please visit it to see how you can assist AFAC. *By Sue Covucci*

## Second Sundays @6 p.m.

November's SecondSundays@6 started with an awesome chili dinner prepared by the 9th grade boys and ended with yummy desserts prepared by the 9th grade girls. In between, Sarah Morse from A-SPAN lead us in a mock town hall meeting where youth played roles that represented different points of view regarding a new transitional housing unit coming to the neighborhood. To everyone's delight, our seminarian Andrew Terry played a convincing disgruntled businessman who argued against the project. In the end, a vote was taken and the housing project was allowed to proceed!



**L to R: T.R., Kevin, Ethan, Kiernan, Arthur, & Nat prepare to take on the Chili Challenge!**

On December 11, join us for SecondSundays@6 when we travel down to Arlington Pediatric Center (APC) for dinner, a tour and gift wrapping party. We will return to St. Mary's by 8pm. Help APC and bring a \$20 gift card for their teenaged clients if you feel moved to do so!

### A Thank You from South Sudan

"Dear Rev. Andrew,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I write thanking you on behalf of the Synod Planning Committee and the Episcopal Church of the Sudan as a whole for your very generous contribution to our 2011 Provincial Synod. Had it not been for your generosity, we would not have succeeded in covering all our costs therefore we truly appreciate your donation. Your contribution to our Bishops Retreat was wonderful and we thank you for sparing the extra time to come and be with us. Financial support is, of course, only one aspect of our partnership but we are very happy that in our time of need, you have again been able to help us. May Almighty God continue to bless you and your team in your ministries. Yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul  
Bishop of the Diocese of Juba"

# Calendar Page

Click the Calendar link on  
[www.stmarysarlington.org](http://www.stmarysarlington.org)  
for the most up-to-date schedule of  
events here at St. Mary's  
or simply click  
[here](#)

**Copy and paste this URL into your browser if the link doesn't  
connect you:**

<http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=G1L6M7M7G1F0N8N8H2>

# Youth December Calendar

Sun., Dec. 4	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High Forum: Music as Prayer
Sun., Dec. 4	10:15 a.m.	Sr. High Forum: "What Exactly is Advent, Anyway?"
Tues., Dec. 6	6:30 p.m.	Youth Confirmation Class
Wed., Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Girls at Abby Reynolds-Cookie Baking
Wed., Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Guys at Thirsty Bernie's for Wing Night with Fr. Tim Malone
Sun., Dec. 11	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High Forum: Music as Prayer (continued)
Sun., Dec. 11	10:15 a.m.	Sr. High Forum: "Service in Action"
Sun., Dec. 11	6:00 p.m.	Second Sundays@6, Focus on Arlington Pediatric Clinic
Wed., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Girls at Alex Bruemmer's for cookie baking
Wed., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Guys at Thirsty Bernie's for Wing Night with Eric Baldwin
Sun., Dec. 18	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High Forum: Open discussion on prayer
Sun., Dec. 18	10:15 a.m.	Sr. High Forum: Advent Service Project
Sun., Dec. 18	6:00 p.m.	All Youth : "Finding Jesus at the Mall"
Wed., Dec. 21	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Girls at Abby Reynolds for Christmas Party
Wed., Dec. 21	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Boys at Thirsty Bernie's for Wing Night with Fr. Tim Malone

## DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW YOUTH MINISTRY

Father Merrow has formed a committee which will study the state of youth ministry here at St. Mary's and create a profile to assist in setting the future direction for the program. This committee is preparing a survey about youth programs which will be launched in mid-December. Keep an eye out for more information in the bulletin or e-mail blasts in the next few weeks. Following the survey, the Committee will hold a meeting in January to present and discuss the results. The committee wants to ensure it hears from everyone! If you have ideas you would like to share, please send an email to [StMarysYouthCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysYouthCommittee@gmail.com) or contact one of the committee members listed below. The committee will report back its findings to Father Merrow and the Vestry by February 15th, 2012. Committee Members are: Nina Bacas, Eric Baldwin, Jane Jacobsen, David Palmer, Suzanne Stroup, Ryan Tasker-Benson, Youth Member; Rev. Tim Malone, Staff Member; Diane Wright, Chairwoman.

### Outreach for the Youngest

Dental care for people living in poverty is even more a challenge than medical care. Reaching out to that need, our Kindergarteners assembled 30 Winter Dental Hygiene Kits for the needy clients at the Arlington Free Clinic. With items such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, sports water bottle, tissue, lip balm, lotion, wash cloth and hand sanitizer, our children hoped to make a difference.



Our generous 3 year olds held a book drive for Arlington Pediatric Center (APC) where each child brought in at least one favorite book from their personal collections. They joyfully presented their gifts to Shelly Cooke, Development Director of APC!

## UPCOMING MUSICAL OFFERINGS

### Sunday, December 4, 5:00 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols

St. Mary's Choirs of Trebles, Boys & Girls, Men & Women and Handbells will lead this service of spiritual preparation for Christ's incarnation. Area civic and charitable leaders will join parishioners in reading lessons from the King James Bible in celebration of its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. St. Mary's parish family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend this special offering, and it is followed by a reception in Paca Parish Hall.



### Sunday, December 18, 7:30 p.m., Candlelight Concert and Compline

St. Mary's Soprano Section Leader Irina Varamesova and Accompanist Paul Leavitt (Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C.) will present music by Rachmaninoff and Schumann followed by Compline at 8:00 p.m. sung by St. Mary's Schola. For artists' bios and complete program, go to [http://www.stmarysarlington.org/stmarysarlington/upcoming\\_events](http://www.stmarysarlington.org/stmarysarlington/upcoming_events).

### Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

2:00 & 4:00 p.m.: Christmas Pageant and Eucharist

8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Congregational Eucharist with St. Mary's Choir of Men & Women

10:30 p.m.: Music of Christmas Prelude

### Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.: Christmas Day

Eucharist with Hymns

### Sunday, January 1, 10:00 a.m.: Second Sunday of Christmastide

Congregational Lessons & Carols

### Friday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.: Epiphany: Feast of Lights

This service includes music, the procession of the Three Kings and scripture readings retelling the events of the Epiphany of our Lord and its significance in the world today. St. Mary's Choir of Boys & Girls will lead the service. A reception follows in Paca Parish Hall.

## Music Fund

Thanks to all who have contributed to St. Mary's Music Fund so far this year. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will help fund musical offerings such as Candlelight Concerts, Requiem and Easter instrumentalists. If you have not yet given to the fund, please consider it as a part of your year's end charitable contributions.

## OUTREACH 4TH & 5TH GRADERS

Our 4th graders pulled off a herculean feat and made 80 tuna and cheese sandwiches for the day workers at Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC)! Then they proceeded to stuff the sandwiches into bags which included fruit, chips, homemade desserts and gatorade. The men graciously accepted our bags and read their notes with quotes from Matthew 11:28-30.



St. Mary's Handcrafts Group knitted handsome neck scarves for the 5th graders to add to their winter reentry kits for Offender Aid & Restoration (OAR) clients. What a delight for both groups to be working together for such a needy cause!



L to R: Sue, Joy, Cameron, Charlotte, Mimi and Alaina.

# St. Mary's Episcopal Church

2609 N. Glebe Road ☩ Arlington, Virginia 22207



## Saint Mary's Episcopal Church The Diocese of Virginia

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### Bishop of the

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Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. Tim Malone
Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. Anne Turner
Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. John Runkle
Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. Grant Ambrose
Priest Associate	The Rev. Kate Sonderegger
Seminarians	Andrew Terry & Shireen Baker
Music Minister	Gregory Hooker
Church School Supt.	Claudia Boswell
Treasurer	Bob Waters
Asst. Treasurers	Fred Barrett Susan Wojcik
Administrator	Pam Frick
Assistant Administrator	Patricia Klintberg
Facilities Manager	Jane Shafran

### 2011 Vestry

Paul Wojcik, Senior Warden  
John Franklin, Junior Warden  
Parks Shackleford, Register  
Chris Eimas  
John Keith  
Deana Platt  
Gordon Thomas  
Susan Lagon  
Suzanne Stroup  
Bill Porter

### Diocesan Council and Region III (Arlington) Lay Delegates:

Steve Bevis  
Mike Gilliland  
John Keith

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