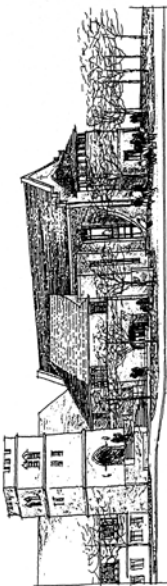


February
2012

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

Recently God met me on the Metro.

Now I admit that I don't ride the Metro very often so that sense of wonder that I felt years ago when first seeing the underground stations hasn't completely left me. I like the vaulted ceilings, the escalators (at least mine were working), the quiet and hushed tone of people waiting for the train. I enjoy looking for the approaching train lights coming out of the tunnel matched by the flashing lights on the platform. I appreciate the cleanliness and lack of litter relative to other public spaces.

When I came up out of the station at Farragut West, I ran into a parishioner and thought to myself how nice to come downtown and be greeted by a friend's voice and face. It was the ride home, however, where things began to open up. It was rush hour, but I was able to secure a seat. We went one stop and stopped, and stayed, stranded for an increasingly long time. When we arrived at the next station the hordes crashed through the doors of the train, staking a place, any place, to stand now that the train had finally arrived. A woman stood next to me in the midst of the crush of people. Having been raised a certain way by my parents, I stood up to offer her my seat. As our eyes met I recognized her as someone I have known intermittently for thirty-five years. We embraced and she sat down. As we talked she shared that she had been in a terrible mood (probably the delayed train had something to do with it) and that our chance meeting had changed everything. Coincidence, of course; more than coincidence, absolutely.

If God is able and chooses to have grace break into a crowded subway car, imagine what might happen if a group of people intentionally chose to set space apart in their lives with the expectation that God might speak, that God might be revealed, that the Word of the Lord might be for me, for us. Sanctuary is a rich and multi-faceted concept – safety, holiness, transcendence. Those of us who live our lives inside the beltway live in a noisy, intrusive, cacophony of stress. Will you join me in a corporate Lenten discipline to step across the threshold from secular to sacred, from chaos to order, from street to sanctuary? Can stepping into the Nave of the church be stepping into the presence of God in a focused way? Can I recognize my neighbor in the sanctuary of God's spacious love that together we can anticipate being encountered by the Living God?

Silence is not an end in itself. With as many beautiful children as this parish is blessed to have, it isn't even practical to hope for. What I am inviting you to embrace is the attempt to prepare for worship in a way that is time honored and time tested, a way that hopefully leads to stillness, the quieting of our troubled minds and spirits. But stillness is not the goal either but a means to an end. What is that end? That end is worship and praise of God "in whom we live, and move, and have our being." That in turn leads to our being dismissed back out into the chaos of this world grounded in something deeper than our own best efforts. It leads to knowing that God is never far away in good times or bad. It means looking for God's grace in our families, in our places of work and rest, in our busyness and in our solitude.

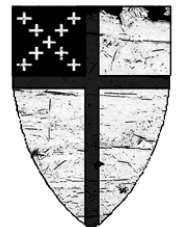
It means being ready for God making an appearance in the least likely of situations.

Even on the Metro.

May the Peace of the Lord always be with you.

Faithfully,

Andrew



Lenten Chapel Course: Discernment

Are you at a crossroads in your life? Seeking a space to encounter the living God?

Join seminarian Andrew Terry and parishioner George Canizzaro for a Lenten course in which we will explore together tools and practices for discerning God's will in relation to our lives and vocations. The course will meet for four Sundays in Lent: February 26, March 4, March 18, March 25 from 10:15 am to 11 am in the Chapel.

Andrew brings three years' experience in an intentional Christian community that practices communal discernment in the Benedictine tradition and George is a certified Ignatian spiritual director who has done master's level work on pastoral formation and Ignatian spirituality. The course will draw on the rich resources of the Benedictine and Ignatian traditions as well as from our Anglican heritage and the Church of the Savior in Washington, DC.

The course will be limited to 12 people. We ask that participants commit to being present for all four weeks of the course. Please sign up in Paca Hall or by e-mailing anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org. Questions can be directed to Anne, Andrew, or George.



**Angel
by Darcey**

Getting to Church on Time—

As Father Merrow has said: "If 9:00 a.m. church is the Holy Hour, 8:00 a.m. is the unholyest," as parents rush to dress children, feed them, and get to church before the service begins. Here are suggestions to make the pilgrimage to church more peaceful:

- Set the alarm clock the night before.
- Lay out the children's clothes the night before.
- Simplify breakfast. (A bagel, toast, muffin & juice?)
- Talk about the importance of getting to church on time the day before.
- And last but not least, set your clock 10 minutes fast. (This worked for my Aunt Bette who had six children!)—Tricia Klintberg

SPARC—Spontaneous Pilgrimages for Art and Religious Conversation

SPARC is a new ministry opportunity at St. Mary's Church, offered by Fr. John Runkle and Peggy Parker. The basic idea around SPARC is when Peggy and Fr. John learn about an interesting exhibit of religious art being presented within a reasonable distance and comfortable drive of Arlington, we will select a convenient date to visit the exhibit, announce it to the parish, and invite anyone who is interested in seeing the exhibit to come along. While at the exhibit, we will find time to talk about what we see and explore any insights the Spirit may seem to stir. Each event will be very informal and simple—no sign-ups, no buses, no formal arrangements. The only requirements are a willingness to arrange your own transportation, an interest in seeing great art, and an eagerness to talk about what we see.

As our name implies, we do not have a predetermined schedule of when SPARC will occur—it's spontaneous! So, our first event will take place on Saturday, March 24, 2012, when we travel to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond to see the exhibit, *The Mourners: Tomb Sculptures from the Court of Burgundy*. This exhibit consists of thirty-seven alabaster carvings of medieval monks in various states of mourning. They were created as part of the design of tombs for two dukes of Burgundy in the 14th century. The carved figures are on tour in the U.S while the tombs in France are being restored, and Richmond is the last stop before the figures return home. (For more information on the exhibit, go to <http://www.mourners.org/>) They are quite exquisite!

We will gather in the St. Mary's parking lot, on the corner of North Glebe Road and 26th Street, and leave for Richmond at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 24th. We will rendezvous at the Museum, see the exhibit, then grab some lunch and conversation afterwards, before heading back to Arlington in the afternoon. Any questions, please contact Fr. John at 703-527-6800 or john.runkle@stmarysarlington.org. We hope you will come along!

**St. Mary's fed 310 people in January
at S.O.M.E. - So Others Might Eat breakfast in
downtown D.C.
Join the St. Mary's crew Feb. 6 at 6:45 a.m.
For more info: Contact George Covucci at
Covuccis@verizon.net**

Contemplative Practices Group To Meet

A Contemplative Practices Group will meet at St. Mary’s on Wednesday evenings, beginning February 29th (first Wednesday after Ash Wednesday) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the chapel led by Neely Myers and Fr. John Runkle.

The group will explore silent prayer, mindful movements, and other methods to raise our awareness of God’s presence and action in our lives. Group sessions will commence with a brief period of silent reflection followed by an explanation and discussion of teaching and practices for that week. This will lead to an opportunity to practice together, in silence, for a period of time to cultivate the practice. To conclude, we will discuss questions, reactions and ways to continue the practice in the week ahead. While we hope you will attend as often as possible, regular attendance is not required. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Neely Myers, neelymyers@gmail.com or Fr. John at john.runkle@stmarysarlington.org.



Adult Forums & Education

- Feb. 5. 10:15 a.m. Coffee With the Bishop**
Join us to Meet the Bishop as he visits the Parish to baptize, confirm, and receive members of our community.
5:00 p.m. Evensong
- Feb. 12 10:15 a.m. Our Youth Ministry**
Our committee, headed by Diane Wright, will report on the status of our Youth Ministry and offer recommendations going forward.
- Feb. 19 10:15 a.m.-VOICE-Affordable Housing**
As housing costs have outpaced incomes, we’ve seen increasing numbers of people priced out of Arlington County homes. Come and explore the human and business costs stemming from the lack of housing affordability and find out what role faith congregations like ours might play.
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Concert
8:00 p.m. Sung Compline
- Feb. 26 10:15 a.m. St. Mary’s Website**
St. Mary’s Communications Committee talks about the redesigned website & plans for its future utility.



VOICE happenings

Sunday, Feb. 19th VOICE

(Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) will be hosting an adult forum at 10:15 a.m. at St. Mary’s about housing affordability. VOICE will also be hosting a larger community meeting soon to discuss the community’s concerns on the affordable housing crisis.

St. Mary’s has been participating in VOICE since its inception in 2008. VOICE is an ecumenical group of citizens working towards non-partisan social justice in many counties of Northern Virginia. It has worked to help community members attain dental work, bus routes, and most recently affordable housing.

St. Mary’s VOICE members are looking for more participants to join us. We will be announcing VOICE activities in the Sunday bulletins as well as the newsletter. Please look for them and please contact us if you have an interest or information on either side of the housing issue or other community concerns. Contacts: Annie Minor ([703 578-8961](tel:7035788961) an-nien.minor@juno.com) and Marjorie Green ([703 532-6065](tel:7035326065) vagreenfam@verizon.net). The organization’s website is: <http://www.voice-iaf.org/arlingtonactivity.htm>.

Update on Sudan—

On January 8th, Father Merrow reviewed St. Mary’s long history of relations with the Episcopal Church in Sudan, a country he has visited four times, most notably in 2006 when the Cathedral, the parish helped fund, was dedicated in Renk.

During the Forum, Fr. Merrow referenced a December statement from Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul reaffirming the Sudanese Church’s position against same sex marriage. “We are deeply disappointed by the Episcopal Church’s refusal to abide by Biblical teaching on human sexuality and their refusal to listen to fellow Anglicans,” the statement said in part. The Sudanese bishops had first made their position known during the Lambeth Conference in 1998.

The timing of the Sudanese statement and what may have prompted it are as mysterious as the country itself, a country that has existed only since July 9th of last year when the republic of South Sudan gained its independence from the North. A country the size of France but with only 30 miles of paved roads. South Sudan faces huge challenges. The church is one of the few functioning institutions other than the military. In the Jan. 15 issue of *The Living Church*, Father Merrow said, “We pray for Sudan every Sunday in our parish, and if anything we’ll redouble our prayers in light of the Bishop’s statement.” Go to www.livingchurch.org for the full story.

Calendar Page

Click the Calendar link on
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 February Calendar

Wed., Feb. 1	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Guys & Thirsty Bernie's for Wing Night with Fr. Tim
Wed., Feb. 1	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Girls at Abby Reynolds house
Sun., Feb. 5	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High Forum & Sr. High Youth Forums
Wed., Feb. 8	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Guys at Thirsty Bernie's for Wing Night with Eric Baldwin & Fr. Tim Malone
Wed., Feb. 8	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Women at the Rev. Anne Turner's House
Sun., Feb. 12	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High Forum & Sr. High Youth Forums
Sun., Feb. 12	6:00 p.m.	Second Sundays@6:00 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Guys at Thirsty Bernie's for Wing Night with Fr. Tim
Wed., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Girls at Church for yoga and meditation with Kristine Sawyer
Sun., Feb. 19	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High & Sr. High Forums
Wed., Feb. 22	7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Liturgy (Sr. High Women attend together)
Sun., Feb. 26	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High & Sr. High Forums
Sun., Feb. 26	1:00 p.m.	Ice Skating at Kettler Arena
Wed., Feb. 29	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Guys Wing Night at Thirsty Bernie's with Fr. Tim Malone & Eric Baldwin
Wed, Feb. 29	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Women at the home of the Rev. Anne Turner

UPCOMING SUMMER MISSION TRIPS FOR YOUTH

Registration will open on March 4 for two summer mission trips: Beach Towel, Swansboro, NC, and Towel Valle Crucis, Valle Crucis, NC. The exact cost of the trips has not been established by the sponsoring organizations, but the cost will be close to last years' cost: \$375.00 per person (both experiences cost the same).

Here are the dates for each mission trip: Towel Valle Crucis 2012 – Friday, June 22 – Friday, June 29
Beach Towel 2012 – Saturday, July 21- Saturday July 28

Who may register: Teens who have completed their 9th Grade Year (and have an up-to-date tetanus shot).
For each trip, there are 10 spots available.

Chaperones: We will need one male and one female chaperone for every five participants. Two male and two female chaperones are required in order for each mission trip to occur. (If you are interested in chaperoning, please contact the church office for more information as soon as possible so all requirements may be met).

Keep an eye out for registration materials in Paca Hall available March 4, 2012.

For more information, contact the Reverend Grant Ambrose (grant.ambrose@stmarysarlington.org) in the parish office (703) 527-6800

Second Sundays @6:00 p.m.-Feb. 12

Fr. Andrew and Santino Dut will join us on Feb 12th to discuss the newest country on the planet, South Sudan, as well as The Episcopal Church of the Sudan. Pasta bar and dessert will be hosted by the 7th graders! At the end, all participants will get a chance to create handmade Sudanese fishing nets under the tutelage of Santino. Don't miss this important evening about a changing region where St. Mary's is deeply involved.

UPCOMING MUSICAL OFFERINGS

Sunday, February 5, 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong

Musical offerings by Gerald Near, William Smith, and Herbert Brewer. A reception follows in Paca Parish Hall.

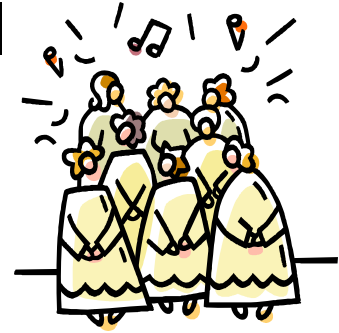
Sunday, February 19, 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Concert and Compline

Matt Centers sings folk and coffeehouse music, and at 8:00 p.m. St. Mary's Schola offers Sung Compline.

Sunday, March 4, 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong

Sung by the Boys & Girls Choirs of St. Mary's Church and St. John the Beloved School, McLean.

Choral music by T. Tertius Noble, H. Balfour Gardiner and Herbert Sumsion will be offered in this service of evening prayer. A reception follows.



20s & 30s

Fellowship and Planning

The 20s/30s Community will be gathering for fellowship and planning following the 5:00 p.m. service on Sunday, February 12. Beverages will be provided. Please bring a favorite snack to share. We will meet in the Vestry at 6:00 p.m. New members of the Leadership Team will be introduced as well as some plans for 2012. For more information contact Grant Ambrose (grant.ambrose@stmarysarlington.org) in the parish office ((703) 527-6800).

4th Graders Study St. Mary's Stained Glass Windows



Adult Retreat Set for April 19-22

A group from St. Mary's will participate in a guided weekend retreat at the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Mass., beginning Thursday night, April 19 and ending Sunday, April 22. There is room for 13 people on the trip. Approximate cost for the whole weekend (airfare/transportation, meals and your own room at the monastery) is \$500 or less if you prefer to provide your own transportation (train, frequent flyer miles, etc.). Plane reservations must be made in February. Want to know more or sign up? Contact Pam Frick at Pam.Frick@stmarysarlington.org or 703.537.6800. The following is from the SSJE website:

"Taking time away from the demands of everyday life, to be quiet, to pray, to worship, to read, rest, and relax, allows us to refocus our lives on what is most important to us. Some people come on retreat at moments of transition, when they feel the need for particular discernment. Others come on retreat simply to refresh and renew their spirit. Our relationship with God, like all relationships, needs attention and care to grow. Times of retreat allow us to turn our whole selves to the love of God, to listen and be attentive to the voice of God. Many people experience retreats as times when God seems particularly near." Go to www.ssje.org for more information.



Angel by
Caroline

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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Saint Mary's Episcopal Church The Diocese of Virginia

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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
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Assistant Administrator	Patricia Klintberg
Facilities Manager	Jane Shafran

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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

Inside this issue:

Parish Life	2
Lenten Chapel Course: Discernment	
Getting to Church on Time	
SPARC-Spontaneous Pilgrimages for Art & Religious Conversation	
SOME	
Contemplative Practices Group to Meet	3
Adult Forums & Education	
Adult Retreat set for April 19-22	7
Outreach	3
VOICE	
Update on Sudan—	
Second Sundays@6 in February	
20s & 30s	7
Calendar	4-5
Youth	6
February Youth Calendar	
Upcoming Mission Trips for Youth	
Music	7
Sun., Feb. 5, Choral Evensong 5p.m.	
Sun. Feb. 19, Candlelight Concert & Compline	
Sun. March 4, Choral Evensong 5 p.m.	