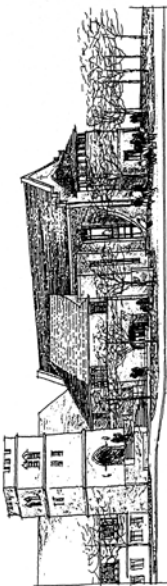


July
2011

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

When my son turned two (he just turned thirty but that is another story) and we had arrived for our summer vacation in Northern New Hampshire 35 miles south of the Canadian border at our 1823 farmhouse that has come down to my siblings and me through my father's family, Jonathan had just mastered the concept of "near" and "far". Some thirty yards in front of the house is a fenced-in field framed by forest and mountain. Young Holsteins are pastured there throughout the warmer months and during our stay that year we were regularly serenaded several times a day with the clear voice of conviction of a two year-old telling us, "The cows are near; the cows are far."

Over the last thirty years I would submit that the notion of "near" and "far" has undergone a profound transformation. Things that occur on the far side of the planet are now conveyed to us instantly. The trout fishing in New Hampshire has declined for a variety of reasons over this time period, one of which is the acid rain carried on the wind from Mid-west power plants, unseen to the Yankee eye but profoundly affecting the Northeast. Global warming should force all of us to reframe how we think about near and far.

Twitter certainly has transformed the concept as well, hasn't it? Just ask a certain former Congressman. Financial markets near and far are constantly humming and what happens in Hong Kong during the day has profound effects on Wall Street while we are still asleep. A tsunami in an exotic land far away turns out not to be so far away as we share the suffering of fellow human beings. A trip up or down Interstate 95 can make a destination seem near or incredibly far depending on the traffic.

We who call ourselves Christians have a particular take on this issue of near and far, or in more formal terms, immanence and transcendence. We believe that the totally far away and unknowable God has been perfectly revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and that God's nearness is available always through the presence of the Holy Spirit. This theological understanding, however, is at best hard to grasp and at worst irrelevant unless the "cows" come into the picture.

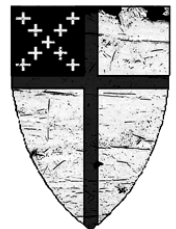
We all remember (at least I hope we do) Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dream of the seven sleek cows consuming the seven fat cows. That successful dream interpretation literally changed the course of history. Famine did not claim its victims, at least this time. Is it possible that we as the people of the earth are entering a new epoch of history in which the conflation of near and far changes everything? Can it be that the parable of the Good Samaritan answering the question, "Who is my neighbor?" must be expanded to new depths of understanding?

Christianity claims that Jesus came into the world to save the world. Further we boldly assert that the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, is to be leading the charge. We are to live with eyes wide open even when we would prefer to avert our gaze.

The cows right in front of us come in many shapes and sizes. The nearest are right here in our parish – coffee hour hospitality, meals for the sick, visits to shut-ins, a word of greeting to the stranger. The next nearest are here in Arlington, the hungry and those unable to find "affordable" housing, the sick and the needy, those who have lost their faith.

Suddenly Sudan and Haiti, Honduras and Tanzania don't seem so far away. Why, they actually are just the next neighborhood over.

Faithfully,



The Gifts of Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Have you ever wondered who the people are that receive a small box at the end of some services and are charged to take the consecrated bread and wine to a brother or sister in the body of Christ? What kind of “ministers” are they? Who becomes a Lay Eucharist Minister, and how?

I had not pondered these questions until one of our Clergy asked if I might be interested in becoming a Lay Eucharist Minister, or “LEM.” Somewhat apprehensively-- mostly because I didn’t understand what might be required-- but also encouraged that someone believed I could do whatever was needed, I said “yes.” A year later, I’m glad that I took that leap, because serving as a LEM has led me into rewarding new relationships with fellow parishioners. LEM visits have helped to strengthen my own faith while introducing me to another way to participate in our broader community in Christ.

What followed after saying “yes” was several hours of instruction along with other new LEMs on how to plan a visit and serve communion; a letter from St. Mary’s to the Bishop to confirm our training for this ministry; and then an apprentice run with an experienced LEM before heading out on my own.

On each LEM visit I have been deeply moved by the opportunity to meet and worship together with a member of our parish community. Regardless of whom I am visiting, a quiet confidence seems to arrive and helps guide me through the service. I am able to convey the essence of the sermon, say something appropriate to the situation, and then I am embraced into a new fellowship in Christ.

Anyone can request a LEM visit. The request may be from someone who is ill, elderly, infirm, recovering from an operation, housebound, or has some other reason why they are unable to attend a regular church service. Being a Lay Eucharist Minister involves responding to a specific request. Often in life it is hard to know when you are being called to do something, but for a LEM this is easy: Someone asks, and immediately you have both the opportunity and the gift of being able to respond.

So, if you are asked if you would like to become a Lay Eucharist Minister, please know that you are being invited to do something very special. If you think you might like to become a LEM, I urge you to discuss the possibility of serving in this lay ministry with our Clergy. A year ago I did not know what ensued when the little box was carried out of church. It turns out not to be a big mystery, but rather a big opportunity to share in the broader Christian fellowship at St. Mary’s. And at the same time, you may discover a gift of personal growth in your own faith and relationship with God.—Terry Otis

Book Sale to Benefit Arlington Pediatric Center

The sixth annual Children's Book Sale to benefit the Arlington Pediatric Center will be held at St. Mary's from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, August 6th, and after the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, August 7th. Please donate gently used books, music CDs, videos (DVDs or VHS tape), and magazines age-appropriate for children up to age 15. Donations may be left in the Church's lower level lobby on the Glebe Road side.

Tyler Davis, assisted by his sister, Jade, is spearheading the Book Sale this year, following five years of dedicated work by Charlotte and Margaret Platner. If you have questions regarding the sale, please contact Tyler at (703) 241-2048 or at margiegdavis@gmail.com.

Prayer Tool Kit to Meet

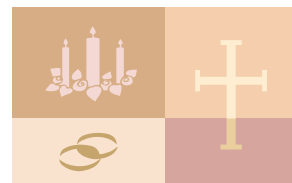
The Prayer Tool kit will meet at 10:00 am on Sat., July 9 and Sat. August 13, to explore contemplative prayer location to be determined. Contact Barbara Kreutzer [703-998-0454](tel:703-998-0454) for more information.

A Grateful Thanks from The Diocese of Alabama

“Dear Andrew:

On behalf of Bishops Henry Parsley and John Sloan thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity expressed in your gift of \$10,000.00 for tornado relief in Alabama. We are working through our parishes to see that your contribution is put to work to help those suffering to recover and rebuild their lives. “ Signed Patrick Wingo, Deputy to the Bishop

Separately Bishop Parsley wrote: “Generosity such as yours is a witness to the grace of God and the love of God’s people for one another. I am especially pleased that you have had three Alabama Senior Wardens. Please convey our profound gratitude to your congregation.”



A Grateful Thank You to Parishioner Jill Chmelik

For those of you who are long married or have never been married, you may not know that St. Mary’s has a behind-the-scenes Wedding Coordinator responsible for everything from changing the frontal on the altar, assuring legal documents are signed, calming nerves, keeping the groom from seeing the bride, putting bulletins in place as well as welcoming guests to St. Mary’s. Jill Chmelik has done this job for 13 years facilitating scores of marriages. We thank her for a job well done and are grateful to Janet Tasker for assuming this role. If you’d like to learn more about this ministry please call Janet at 703/356-0605 or email her at jtasker@cox.net.

Putting a Face on VOICE

By Marjorie Green



Since its founding two and one-half years ago, VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) has helped draw attention to serious problems facing low and moderate-income residents of Northern Virginia, from unsafe and deplorable living conditions in apartment complexes to a lack of access to affordable dental care. Often, the success is reported in numbers – of fire code violations remedied in apartments or budget money added to expand care offered at the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic.

But there are real people in need who benefit from the VOICE actions. Here's a look at one of the people behind VOICE's recent success in Arlington.

When the Arlington County Department of Human Services moved to a new location, many low-income residents found the time and money it took to get there greatly increased. **Carolina Espino** was one of them.

She lives with her husband and two young children in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Arlington. Before the change she could make it to DHS on one bus door-to-door. The office location change meant two buses and a transfer.

"Besides having to keep my children close to me, I had to walk across busy streets to transfer and endure long waits between buses in every kind of weather," she said. Desperate to make her appointments, Carolina would sometimes resort to paying a neighbor to drive her. But it cost \$20.00 a trip – roughly the equivalent of five gallons of milk for her children.

Carolina and other residents joined with VOICE and met with the Arlington County Board. During this process, she realized the power of her own voice. "These experiences, along with the relationships with VOICE members from different religious institutions, helped me feel confident. Soon, I was urging others to speak up, just as I was doing," she said.

And their action was rewarded: \$225,000 was included in the Arlington County budget to extend the bus route to the neighborhoods at the West End of Columbia Pike! Members of the VOICE Core Team at St. Mary's were instrumental in this campaign to achieve much needed help for Arlington residents like Carolina.

VOICE will focus next on housing affordability and living conditions along Columbia Pike. There are many ways that members of the parish can be involved. If you are interested, contact Tim Malone at Tim.Malone@stmarysarlington.org or Marjorie Green, Rose-Ann Ashby or Florence Dale.

Determination D-Day for Sudan—July 9?

By Tricia Klintberg

Pray for the people of Sudan now and after July 9. On that date the North –ruled by indicted war criminal Omar al-Bashir--and the South, led by Salva Kiir, will become two nations. Whether peace can reign allowing further improvements in the lives of the Sudanese is of particular importance to Episcopalians and many others.

At the annual conference of the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan in Glen Allen, VA last month, speaker after speaker spoke of the dire conditions that are a day to day reality for much of Sudan. One in five babies born dies. The country has no real secondary education system. Even well-meaning people, part of 31 dioceses of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), lack basic skills like reading, writing, and arithmetic. Such accomplishments must come second when access to food, water, and housing is an every day concern.

Larry Duffee, the U.S. Church's representative, works with Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul at the ECS headquarters in Juba. Duffee spoke of meeting a Diocesan Treasurer who had no ledger, no journal, and no calculator; in short, no way of accounting for funds. Duffee's job is to try to steer donations from the U.S. Church to those in need. However, he said there are three or four currencies in use and four bank accounts. "The long-term goal is to teach them financial accounting," he said.

He has also worked with the Sudanese to determine improvements that could earn income and some stability—such as one Diocese's request for a press to make food oil. Indeed the U.S. Episcopal and Anglican Communion have made enormous contributions large and small. Still the need is great. Duffee asked that those who wish to donate money or time work through the Diocese of Virginia's office in Richmond in order to coordinate help.

Ambassador Dane F. Smith Jr., President Obama's senior advisor for Darfur, Office of the Special Envoy, said that Darfur is an exception to Sudan's acceptance of ECS help and faith-based organizations generally. "Darfur is overwhelmingly Muslim. The Christian element needs to be camouflaged as humanitarian work only, without evangelism."

Lastly, most aid is directed to the South. Indeed, the U.S will lift economic sanctions against Southern Sudan on July 9. But the North becomes a new country too on that day. And the ECS encompasses all of Sudan. As Bishop Andudu Elnail of the Diocese of Kadugli and the Nuba Mountains said, "The message of the church was we want separation. But how can the Archbishop go to the North? Bashir wants to make difficulty and so no money is going to the North. There are no flights. The water is not safe; the food is not safe but go to those places where there is desperate need—in the North."

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>

Wed., July 6-10

Jr. High Youth Urban Pilgrimage to New York City

Sat., July 23-30

Towel Mission Trip Swansboro, NC.

YOUTH PROFILES



Bryan & Ian ponder their next task.

St. Mary's office staff swelled this summer as two long-time youth parishioners spent their three-week High School Senior experience with us. Bryan Chase and Ian Sawyer got a taste of nearly every task performed at St. Mary's as a regular part of keeping our doors open. They cleaned closets, stuffed envelopes for mailing, straightened files in file cabinets; sorted hymnals and prayer books looking for those beyond repair; retagged all keys, answered the phones, dealt with walk-ins, readied the staff for Shrine Mont by grocery shopping, packing fans, flashlights, coolers, sporting equipment, musical equipment, prayer books, hymnals—in short, the church. They also babysat children at Shrine Mont; set up Chairs and Tables at Shrine Mont and at St. Mary's for the Cathedral Church of the Advent Choir dinner & reception; and most importantly used their computer tech skills to ready old office computers for donation by deleting files and reloading basic software. How do they characterize the experience? "It was fun!"

Bryan Chase—Age 18

High School: W-L

Ian Sawyer—Age 17

High School: Yorktown

1. *How long have you been coming to St. Mary's?*

Since I was a baby, so over 18 years.

For 11 years.

2. *What did you like best about working at St. Mary's?*

The people and the air-conditioning.

I enjoyed the fact that everyone around me was fun to work with. I like the conversations and interactions with everyone.

3. *What did you like least?*

Fixing the internet and re-organizing Matt's files.

Waking up at 8:30 a.m.

4. *What will you take away with you from this experience?*

I learned that it is much harder to run a Church than I thought.

I hadn't done a whole lot with people at the Church, but now I like it a lot more just having been around everyone for the last 3 weeks.

5. *What makes your Senior Experience different than that of your friends?*

I did it for free.

The main difference is I was around people I've known a long time and I've known this place for as long as I can remember. I also was helping with computers which I do constantly so I hope I donated tremendously.

6. *Most recent book read?*

The Grand Design by Stephen Hawking

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

7. *Favorite breakfast?*

Pancakes

Eggs, Bacon, Mango-Pineapple Smoothie

8. *Hobbies?*

Music, skiing, hiking

I play guitar, sing, make computer animations & games. Everything related to music & computers.

9. *Last Movie?*

Ken Burns-**The Civil War**

Kung Fu Panda 2

UPCOMING MUSIC OFFERINGS

The Summer Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings only at 9:15 a.m. for the 10:00 a.m. service. This is an excellent time to join your voice with the St. Mary's Choir. The music is not difficult, and the people are great! Give Gregory a call at 703-527-6800 or email Gregory.hooker@stmarysarlington.org for more information.

Come enjoy the **Keble College, Oxford Choir** on Sunday, July 17 at St. Mary's. **Former Associate Rector Jennifer Strawbridge** is now the chaplain at Keble College while pursuing Ph.D. studies at Oxford. Keble College is important to our liturgical history as Anglicans for the revival of choral music and the Eucharistic emphasis of the modern Episcopal Church in the United States. At the 10:00 a.m. service the choir will sing and Jenn will celebrate the Eucharist. Following the 5 p.m. Evensong performance by the choir, we will have a St. Mary's Family Fiesta. This will be a fun opportunity to say hello to Jenn and gather together for an authentic Mexican dinner prepared for us by Osiris Hoil Pech, St. Mary's parishioner and owner of District Taco on Lee Highway. Sign-up sheets are in the Paca Hall or you can email Cameron Merrow to indicate your attendance at cdmerrow@gmail.com.



20s & 30s

Beer with the Bishop: Mark your calendars!

Love a good beer? Love good conversation? Then come for both on Wednesday, July 27, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Our diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, will join young adults from across Northern Virginia at St. George's Church, Arlington (915 N. Oakland St., across the street from the Virginia Square Metro). Chris Turner, Sales and Purchasing Manager for Hop and Wine Beverage, will provide education on a variety of craft beers. More information to follow soon . . . in the meantime, contact the Rev. Anne Turner (anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org) with questions.

Giving Thanks

Mailing the Messenger

There are so many ways and reasons to give thanks for St. Mary's; our wonderful church and community. One group you may not have thought about joining is the one that folds this newsletter. If you look closely you'll see the Messenger is just two big sheets of paper. Volunteers put the two sheets together, fold it once then fold it again. Then —because of the Post Office—a seal is attached to keep the sheets together. Then some 560 labels must be attached, oh, and kept in zip code order. The whole process takes about three hours when just four or five volunteers work with staff. With four or five more volunteers, well the job would get done more quickly. There's always coffee, sweet rolls, and grapes and lots of chatter to pass the time. Please consider giving this ministry a go. It's just once a month for a couple of hours. If you're interested in helping call Tricia 703/527-6800. If you're currently receiving the newsletter by mail and want to switch to email, let us know that too.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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Saint Mary's Episcopal Church The Diocese of Virginia

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Bishop of the

Diocese of Virginia	The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
Rector	The Rev. Andrew T. P. Merrow
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
Music Minister	Gregory Hooker
Youth Minister	Matt Centers
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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