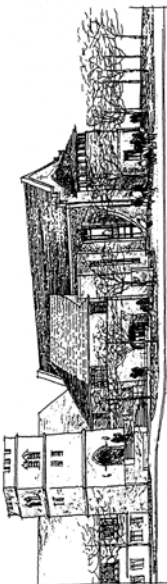


June
2011

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

When we are younger life appears to be a series of endless opportunities. The future is literally wide open. With enough determination and hard work I can live where I want, do what I want, and be with whomever I want. It is also true that when we are younger every setback, every slight, every offense, is devastating and often overwhelming. I wasn't picked for the team – I can never face my friends. I broke up with my boyfriend – I will never again leave my bedroom. The college that I had set my heart on hasn't chosen me – my dreams are forever compromised.

As we get older life appears to be a series of shrinking possibilities. The doors of the future are literally closing, sometimes slammed hard in my face, and there is nothing I can do about it. I will never achieve that goal in my professional life. As much as I would like to change the past, that is no longer possible. I simply don't have the energy and stamina that I once did. I may have dreamed all my life of visiting (fill in the blank), but let's be honest, it isn't going to happen.

The key to navigating this terrain common to us all, whether we are in the younger or older phase, is wrestling faithfully with the issue of how things "appear" to be. One of the insights that our Buddhist brothers and sisters give us is that much if not most of what we consider "real life" is anything but. One of the responsibilities of those in the "mature" phase of life is to stand fast with our younger brothers and sisters without judging their exaggerations of hope or pessimism. One of the responsibilities of those in the "younger" phase of life is to remind us older folk to celebrate the abundance of joy that is in the present moment, in the here and now.

Jesus said to seek first the Kingdom of God and everything else would be given to us. He further stated that the Kingdom resides within each of us. If Jesus is correct, it does raise the question of why we insist searching everywhere except where we have been directed. Saint Paul said that he had learned the secret of being content with much or little. His most joyful epistle, the Letter to the Romans, was written as he sat in prison awaiting probable execution. He apparently "got" what Jesus was driving at... the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds, that is large enough to contain everything. To pick up on that image maybe the cliché is true, "Grow where you are planted."

May your summer months be filled with rest (the Sabbath kind) and recreation (the re-creating kind).

Faithfully,



A Special Thank You to St. Mary's

For computers purchased from Father Merrow's Discretionary Fund to replace those stolen from the Rt. Rev. John Gattek, Assistant Bishop of Bentiu Area Diocese and the Right Rev. Issac Dhieu, Bishop of Akot Diocese, Sudan:

"It is the love of God that you have shown because the people of Akot, we are in a very remote area, and this diocese was created newly just last year. It is one year now old. What I can say is that you keep on with such a spirit of helping the people who are in need and I know that spirit, no one can do it, unless someone is called by God...So, may God bless all of you and keep that giving spirit in you, spirit of love that you can show the children of God....Thank you so much! May God bless you and even the people in the diocese, all of us are happy with this gift. We are going to use it for the whole diocese, not only the bishop. It is a benefit to the congregation of Akot diocese. May God bless you." Bishop Dhieu

And to the Prayer Shawl Ministry...

"To all you wonderful members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry,

"Thank you for the very special work you do through this ministry. When my mother became very ill in March. Mary Beth delivered a beautiful green prayer shawl for her. She used it until she died, and my father now has it and treasures it.

"It has been a constant reminder of the St. Mary's community and of God's grace. I have a new appreciation for your quiet, but powerful, work through this ministry."

Bless you all! Marjorie Green

St. Mary's Book Sale

Charlotte and Margaret Platner have spear-headed the St. Mary's book sale for the past five years. The baton will be passed this year to **Tyler Davis** who will have the assistance of his sister, Jade. Proceeds from the book sale benefit the Arlington Pediatric Center's (APC) program to give each child a book when they leave their appointment. Be sure to watch the bulletin or the weekly email updates for information on book donations and the date of the sale.

May UTO Ingathering

Your giving thanks has allowed us to send \$1,096.20 to the United Thank Offering to support their grants and mission work. Thank you.



Boys Frisbee and Music Event —Are You Strong Enough to Sing? Saturday, June 4, 10:00-Noon

If you answered "Yes" then join HB Woodlawn Frisbee Team Players, St. Mary's Choral Scholars and Ned and Emerson Sieverts on June 4. They will host an event for boys of St. Mary's parish and their friends. (K-through 6th grade). Joining Ned and Emerson will be Youth Minister Matt Centers and Music Minister Dr. Hooker. We will spend our time learning about playing competitive Frisbee and finding out how athletic singing really is. (Did you know it takes almost 20 different muscles and organs to sing?) Lunch will be included, so please RSVP to gregory.hooker@stmarysarlington.org by June 3.

Job Opportunity at L'Arche

Part-time overnight employee is needed for L'Arche Greater Washington, DC's Arlington home. Help developmentally disabled adults within the home at night. Fluency in verbal and written English required. Competitive salary. Resume, cover letter to: join@larche-gwdc.org, or L'Arche, PO Box 21471, Washington DC 20009, (202) 580-5638.

Summer Schedule

✚ St. Mary's summer schedule begins on Pentecost Sunday, June 12 when much of the parish will be at Shrine Mont. In Arlington, Services begin at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Church office hours will be from 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. M-Th and 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. on Fridays until Sept. 6.

✚ 20s & 30s activities: Not Your Mother's Bible Study, Jesus Salon & Reel Christianity will go on Summer Vacation beginning this month. Watch for information in the Blast and in the Messenger for summer 20s & 30s activities beginning in July.

✚ This summer St. Mary's is pleased to have four youth helping out around the office. High School Seniors Bryan Chase and Ian Sawyer will be sharing their Arlington County Senior Experiences with us working on projects like Outreach Camp and website management. Rising College Sophomores Lindsey Bevis and Drew Sanders will be helping Jane Shafran with facilities management. We are excited to have them on board and blessed to have them give back to their church family.

OUTREACH —ST MARY'S YOUTH BATTLE MALARIA

St. Mary's Hosts Youth-Led Malaria Prevention Training



L to R:
Lauren,
Emma, Bryan,
Jessie, Ian,
Margaret participate in
NetsforLife training.

On Sunday May 15th, an enthusiastic group of parishioners from St. Mary's, Grace Alexandria, St. George's and St. Luke's convened for our youth-led malaria training. High schoolers led the evening with an ever-accelerating round of "I Thank You God" followed by a dramatization of a short passage. Next, Michael Reed (7th grader, Grace) and I enacted an informative skit about the history of malaria, how devastating it still is and how insecticide-treated bed nets offer a life-saving solution. We watched a short video from *NetsforLife*® and then were so lucky to hear Mrs. Moira Johnston speak about having contracted the deadliest strain of malaria when she was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Central African Republic. Finally, youth made artistic posters to display at their home parishes. Be on the lookout for a whole collection at St. Mary's! —EW



Emma & Michael explain the dangers of malaria. Life saving net in background.

It Only Takes One Mosquito to End a Child's Life: Let's Make a Difference Beginning Youth Sunday June 5

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Matthew 9:36-37

Are you aware that 800,000 children under the age of five die every year in sub-Saharan Africa from a parasite that we have known how to prevent and treat for 100 years? That's about one child death every 45 seconds from a single mosquito bite. Now imagine being able to save three children's lives for just \$12.

This summer, the youth of St. Mary's will be leading a campaign to send 1000 malaria-preventing bed nets to sub-Saharan Africa through *NetsforLife*®, a partner of Episcopal Relief & Development. Our contributions will be part of a larger diocesan goal of sending 20,000 life-saving bed nets before the end of Lent 2012. For only \$12, *NetsforLife*® not only hangs the nets in the villagers' homes, but also provides ongoing education and support for communities. With such a tangible mission, our parish can really make a difference.

The campaign will officially kick off on Youth Sunday, June 5th, but the 3 year-old church school class is already leading the way on our campaign! During Lent, the children put coins in a mite box while the teachers held a "net" over them. As the box passed from child to child, the teachers explained how they were safe from the mosquitoes while they were under the net. At the end of the collection, the 3 year-olds said a prayer for the children that live near the dangerous mosquitoes. These youngsters collected \$36 for *NetsforLife*®, contributing the first three nets to our goal. Only 997 to go!

As you continue to plan your vacations and as the mosquitoes start nibbling this summer, I invite you to open your generous hearts to our young brothers and sisters in Africa whose lives are endangered every night while they sleep.

-Emma Wright, Lead Youth Representative,
Bishop's *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund

www.inspirationfund.org

www.thediocese.net/Mission/NetsforLife

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bishops-NetsforLife-Inspiration-Fund-Diocese-of-Virginia/127486943985540>

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., June 1	7:00 p.m.	Sr. High Women/Sr. High Guys
Sat., June 4	10:00 a.m.—Noon	Frisbee & Singing Boys (K-6th grade)
Sun., June 5	9:00 a.m.	Children's Sunday School Service
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday Service
	7:00 p.m.	Sr. High Women
Wed., June 8	7:00 p.m.	Jr. High Guys/ Girls
Sat./Sun. June 11-12	Shrine Mont !!	

YOUTH

The Value of Mission Trips—Unforgettable!

There are still a few spots available on the various mission opportunities that St. Mary's will be involved in this coming summer. Adult sponsorship is needed and welcomed for all trips, so if you are interested, let us know.

There is plenty of room on the Towel Ministry trip to Valle Crucis, North Carolina (August 7-13.) It is called "Towel Ministry" to remind us of Jesus washing the disciples feet and wrapping them with a towel. The towel symbolizes the humility Jesus showed his followers when he did this service for them. As he said, "Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him." Participants in the Valle Crucis Mission trip learn fulfillment through service—by helping others do minor to major repair projects at homes in the foothills of western North Carolina. A typical day includes construction, painting, carpentry, and relationship building with the homeowners. This is a great opportunity to learn more about yourself and others. We have several spaces available for rising 10th graders and above, so please sign up if you are interested.

The trip to Valle Crucis has been particularly important in the formation of many of our young people at St. Mary's. Our own Lindsey Bevis has participated many times and has been able to reflect on how important it was:

"I've been on Towel, Valle Crucis, for three years now and every summer, I always come back with a renewed spirit and a great appreciation of all that we have in this area. Those three weeks of my life have been some of the most memorable. I will always remember the people I met, the families I helped, and the things I learned, both about home repair and spiritual growth. If I could, I would go back every summer; as it is, I will have to wait until I can go back as a chaperone to create more wonderful memories in Valle Crucis."

God calls us to go out into the world and help people. Through these trips, new, life-long friendships will be made, relationships with other faith communities will be strengthened, and in every aspect, the healing and resurrection of Jesus will be experienced by everyone involved. This is what we do and I am so glad that our youth are such a shining example of this important aspect of being the Body of Christ. —*MATT*

Summer Mission Trips/ Activities

Urban Pilgrimage: NYC– July 6-10

Youth Group Tubing Trip–July 29

Gleaning, August 3

Towel Ministry, Valle Crucis, N.C. Aug. 7-13

Outreach Camp, Arlington, VA August 22-26

Remember the lovely jeweled crosses sold at Easter?

Our industrious 6th graders pooled their creative talents for Japan relief and made 30 unique crosses sold on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. A total of \$430.00 was raised and all proceeds went to the relief headquarters of the Anglican Diocese of Tohoku, an area deeply affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami.



Hymn Festival at Christ Church, Alexandria

Sunday, June 5, 2011, 5:00 p.m., Hymn Festival at Christ Church, 118 North Washington St., Alexandria. Dr. Gerre Hancock, professor of organ at the University of Texas, Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, NYC will lead the congregation in Hymns of the Spirit. Choirs from Christ Church (Jason Abel, Director), St. Mary's and Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda (Thomas Smith, Director). A reception will follow the service.

Summer Guest Choirs

Wednesday, June 15, 7:30 p.m., Guest Choral Concert: Cathedral Church of the Advent Choir

The Advent Choir from Birmingham, Alabama, is an auditioned choir of volunteers and professionals directed by Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer and accompanied by Charles Kennedy. They have traveled four times to England for cathedral residencies and have made six recordings. Their East Coast Tour includes Atlanta, Winston-Salem, Chapel Hill, Washington National Cathedral and in New York City, St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue and The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. A reception will follow the concert.

Sunday, July 17, 10:00 a.m. Eucharist and 5:00 Evensong, Keble College Choir, Oxford University. The Rev. Jennifer Strawbridge, former associate rector at St. Mary's, is Chaplain and Fellow at Keble College, will be accompanying this distinguished choir on one of its rare U.S. tours. This fine choir of sixteen students regularly sings for services at Keble College. The 19th century Oxford Movement is associated directly with Keble College and revived choral singing, great church architecture and many of the liturgical traditions that we now commonly consider Anglican. If you are interested in housing singers from the choir, please let Minister of Music Gregory Hooker know.

Summer Choir Raise a joyful voice!



Ever wanted to sing in the choir? Now's your chance. Although regular weekday rehearsals for choirs concluded in May, the Summer Choir will lead services throughout the summer. **The Summer Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings only at 9:15 a.m. beginning on Sunday, June 19.** We do not vest and do not process. This is an excellent time to join your voice with the St. Mary's Choir. Both inexperienced and experienced singers of all ages are welcome. We have room for everyone! Call Gregory at 703-527-6800 or email Gregory.Hooker@stmarysarlington.org for more information.

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 our musical offerings for the 2011-2012 season. If you have not yet given to the fund, please remember that gifts are gratefully received at any time.

New York, New York

What an enormous joy it was for St. Mary's choristers to sing at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC, <http://www.stjohndivine.org/> on May 8 for the 11:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist and 4:00 p.m. Choral Evensong under the direction of the eminent Cathedral Choirmaster Bruce Neswick and to hear the mighty organ roar through this glorious sacred space! We were also privileged to have as our officiant at Evensong former St. Mary's Associate Rector Bill Parnell who is now Archdeacon in the Diocese of New York. Choristers and their families enjoyed perfect weather in the Big Apple, and the St. Mary's Choir family enjoyed this opportunity for community. By GH

For more, go to the St. Mary's Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/StMarysArlington>

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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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
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

Inside this issue:

Parish Life	2
A Special Thank You From Sudan And to the Prayer Shawl Ministry St. Mary's Book Sale Boys Frisbee & Music Event—Are You Strong Enough to Sing? Job Opportunity at L'Arche Summer Schedule	
Outreach	3
St. Mary's Hosts Youth-Led Malaria Prevention Training It Only Takes One Mosquito to End a Child's Life: Let's Make a Difference Beginning Youth Sunday	
Calendar	4-5
Youth	6
June Youth Event Calendar Why Go on a Mission Trip? Remember the lovely jeweled crosses sold at Easter?	
Music	7
Hymn Festival at Christ Church, Alexandria Summer Guest Choirs Summer Choir: Raise a Joyful Voice Music Fund New York, New York	