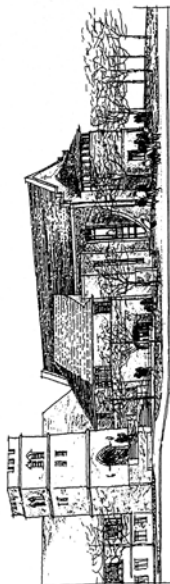


October
2011

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

In a recent conversation with a friend I was relating how gratifying it was to get some work done on our house in New Hampshire on the basis of a trusted recommendation. It wasn't all that long ago in this country when a person's word, sealed by a handshake, was all that was required. A commitment made was a commitment honored. One of the most troubling aspects of the times in which we live is that commitments are viewed very differently from our fore bearers. Persons often don't even feel a tinge of guilt when a promise is "forgotten", a trust betrayed, or a covenant ignored. The moral relativism that passes for a coherent meta-narrative to make sense of life is dumbfounding.

The biblical narrative is at its most fundamental about commitments. Ours is a covenant-making God. Remember that the word testament (as in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible) is a synonym for the word "covenant". God makes a commitment to the Hebrews (the Chosen People) and fulfills its terms Himself in sending Jesus Christ to come among us. The fact that Jews at times in history have been persecuted by Christians is not only morally repugnant but theologically indefensible. God keeps his promises.

Without commitments/covenants/contracts/promises being kept it is almost impossible for children to grow up trusting. Because we don't always keep our word, the only antidote to breaking trust is forgiveness. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." It is hard work to keep commitments, and it is harder work to forgive. Both require effort, discipline, and a compass to keep us headed in the right direction. The Church is intended to act as such in our lives.

Shortly, you will be receiving information and an invitation to enter into a written financial covenant with Saint Mary's for the year of Our Lord 2012. If this tradition is new to you let me articulate a few foundational principles. The parish is totally self-funded, of which 95 percent comes from written commitments. We in turn as a parish commit 25 percent of our pledged income, combined with the loose plate offering, outside ourselves: 11 percent to the work of the larger church through our Diocesan commitment and 14 percent to our outreach ministry. The Bible understands percentage giving as normative and so do we. I would encourage you strongly to commit a percentage of your income to the work of your parish. Part of the gift of that approach is that in these uncertain economic times you can give the same percentage whether your income goes up or down.

Most important is the commitment. God wants what is best for us and stops at nothing to give it to us. The terms of the covenant are clearly laid out. A big piece of it is that God loves us enough to hold us accountable for what we do with our lives. There is a reason that Jesus explicitly states that where our treasure is, so will our hearts be.

God wants our heart.

May the Peace of the Lord always be with you. Faithfully,



PARISH LIFE

Adult Forum Schedule: Oct-Nov. 6

Oct. 2 10:15*am STEWARDSHIP

God loves each one of us and how we choose to respond to God's love is called "stewardship." This forum will hopefully raise awareness of the role stewardship plays in our spiritual development and encourage an "attitude of gratitude" in daily life.

The Stewardship Committee

5:00 pm EVENSONG

**Oct. 9 10:15*am MISSION POSSIBLE: "FAR"
"Go ye into the world and preach the gospel."**

St. Mary's Outreach Ministry has developed several overseas partnerships. Over the next few weeks we will hear from some of these brothers & sisters in Christ and how the extended Body of Christ enriches us. Today we welcome **Fr. Mathieu Brutus from Haiti.**

Oct. 16 INGATHERING SUNDAY

10:15*am MISSION POSSIBLE: "FAR"

Our series continues this morning with a visit from **Bishop Joseph from South Sudan.**

Chapel Course #1

Oct. 23 10:15*am COFFEE HOUR



Chapel Course #1

Oct. 30 Open Forum

Chapel Course #1

Nov. 6 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

10:15*am COFFEE HOUR



Come meet the priest from San Lucas in Honduras, **The Rev. Barbara Boghetich.**

5:00 pm ALL SAINTS' REQUIEM

6:00 pm RECEPTION

In addition to the Adult Forum in Paca Hall, we will be offering a series of short courses in the chapel this year. Each course runs 3-4 weeks and is limited to 12 people. Participants register in advance and make a commitment to be present for the entire course. Topics will include the Bible, spirituality, and prayer. Sessions rely on discussions and experiential learning. Watch the bulletin and weekly e-mails for information about registering for specific courses.

October 16, 23, 30 -- "The Book of Ruth", Led by The Rev. Tim Malone and John Kyser.

Unraveling Revelation. Join the Reverend Grant Ambrose in exploring the Book of Revelation. In this six-part study, participants will explore some of the major misconceptions about Revelation, establish a foundation for understanding the historical setting for Revelation and the book's relevance to today, and enjoy the beauty of some of the book's most famous passages. This course is offered on Thursday mornings beginning September 29 and concluding November 3. We will meet at 10:00 am in the vestry/library. For more information and a complete schedule, please contact Grant (703) 527-6800; grant.ambrose@stmarysarlington.org. Pre-registration is not required, but please let Grant know of your interest so an appropriate amount of materials may be provided.



Kay's Group

If you hear the sound of needles clacking away on a Tuesday night downstairs at St. Mary's, that's the sound of Kay's Group. For 31 years, Arlington resident Kay Donaldson taught weekly knitting workshops for the Parks & Recreation department. A gifted artist (she was named Knitter of the Year in 2000 by Knitters Magazine and Lion Brand yarns) with a dry wit and the patience of Job, she had a devoted following. Many of her students had attended her workshops year-round for ten years, some even twenty. But for nineteen years, she also battled breast cancer and in the summer of 2009, she passed away from the disease. The women who knitted with her and looked after her when she was dying wanted to continue to meet and St. Mary's has graciously allowed us to continue our weekly gatherings every Tuesday evening. If you would like more information about Kay's Group, please contact Nancy Murphy at - [703-532-4266](tel:703-532-4266) or nancy.b.murphy@gmail.com.

Your Every Member Canvas Packet is coming soon. Look for it in your mailbox!"

OUTREACH

Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR)

Are you looking for an outreach opportunity which fits your situation? Consider OAR as a possibility. It takes place close to home base and has a limited commitment.

Who is on St. Mary's OAR Team?

OAR requires that we have at least two team members at each meeting with our clients, who are newly released non-violent offenders. OAR refers them to us for help in getting back into society. However, St. Mary's team is down to three active members. With vacations, work, etc., we do not have enough members to function at this time. An ideal team would have about six or eight members. We communicate through email to set up meetings and discuss progress.

What is involved?

Contact with each client involves a commitment of six months. Initially, the team meets with the client once a week for two months; every two weeks for two months; and finally once a month for the final two months of the commitment. The meetings take place in the evening, about 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. at a public place. We have been meeting at St. Charles near Wilson Boulevard because it is close to a metro stop.

What happens at the meetings?

We discuss issues that are of concern to the client. Often those involve relationships, transportation, jobs, a place to live, etc. It sometimes includes helping the client establish priorities, what needs to be done first and how it should be approached. We give advice but often just listen and help the client reach their own solutions. We open and close with a short prayer but our faith is shown by who we are and how we live our lives.

How successful are we?

Sometimes we are, other times we are not so sure. A client can and has left the area without notice; others have thanked us at a final meeting and given us positive feedback. One thing for sure, we have done no harm, and we may have done some good.

Who can you contact to learn more?

The Rev. Grant Ambrose can put you in touch with one of our three members, all men at this time. We could use a woman's touch. ...*Fred Tingley*

OUTREACH FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Nets for Life As the fall season sets in, the mosquitoes are fading away and our campaign is wrapping up! If you have not already done so, please send in your donations or place them in the Paca Hall boot. Because of your generous support we will be able to help 1000 families in sub-Saharan Africa, changing their lives from one of persistent sickness to health. We have raised \$7,200 to buy 600 nets, 60% of our goal. In this final stage, please help us get all the way!

September's 2nd Sundays @6 is in the Bag!

L to R:
Alex,
Claire,
Eliza &
Lilly
LIKE
bagging
rice.



On Sept. 11, nearly 50 enthusiastic St. Mary's youth gathered for dinner and a common goal: to learn about hunger and help out the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Our young men hauled 900 lbs. of bulk rice on their backs up to Paca Hall where the entire group divided it up into small portions. Thanks to their efforts, 900 families received a bag of rice the next week!

Next SecondSundays@6: Oct 9th-Haiti

Youth 6th-12th grade are invited to enjoy a Haitian dinner and dessert buffet while we learn a little Creole and hear about the lives of Haitian teens, pre- and post-earthquake. We'll use Photo Booth on a Mac to create a booklet that introduces ourselves (no last names) to the teens of St. Martin de Tours and invite them into an e-penpal relationship through St. Mary's. We have a home-made video of St. Martin's to watch and as an aside, we need to prep 200 bags for the upcoming Thanksgiving dinner collection! Much to learn and do – see you on the 9th!

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., Oct. 5	7:00 p.m.	Jr. High Guys/Jr. High Girls
Sun., Oct. 7-9		Confirmation Class Retreat & Shrinemont
Sun., Oct. 9	6:00 p.m.	SecondSundays@6—Haiti
Wed., Oct. 12	7:00 p.m.	Sr. High Guys/Jr. High Girls
Tues., Oct. 18	6:30 p.m.	Youth Confirmation Classes Begin
Wed., Oct. 19	7:00 p.m.	Jr. High Guys/Jr. High Girls
Wed., Oct. 26	7:00 p.m.	Sr. High Guys/Sr. High Girls
Sat., Oct. 29	6:00 p.m.	Halloween Party-Battle of the Bands

ST. MARY'S YOUTH FORUMS

A letter from Matt Centers, Youth Minister

I hope that everyone has had a relaxing summer and is getting back into the swing of things this new school year! There are a lot of exciting things happening with St. Mary's youth this year, but one of the most exciting is the revamped Sr. High Youth Forum. We have new leaders, new ideas, and new topics to discuss. I am excited to have a new panel of Sr. High Forum Leaders, some of whom you may know. The new leaders are: George Cannizzaro, Brynna Cox and Jim Reddy, and Jessica Harkness, with occasional cameos made by the Rev. Anne Turner and myself. They are a great group and our kids are lucky to be with them.

In two of our lessons in the coming weeks, we will explore the Eucharist and why it is essential as Episcopalians. Eating together at the Lord's table is central to our lives together as Episcopalians. Much like eating a family dinner, the Eucharist serves as a place for us to leave everything at the door, come together in community, and be fed. The Rev. Anne Turner will help us walk through the liturgy in two sessions:

Sunday, October 16 – Youth Forum 10:15 a.m., Instructed Eucharist Part I: the Word

Sunday, October 23 – Youth Forum 10:15 a.m., Instructed Eucharist Part II: the Meal



20s & 30s

Annual Fall Retreat: The 20s/30s Community will head to beautiful Shrine Mont October 15 – 16. A time of community building, spiritual refreshment and worship awaits. This year's theme is "Hearing the Whispers of God in a Hectic World." Two last-minute spaces are available. For more information, contact the Reverend Grant Ambrose (grant.ambrose@stmarysarlington.org).

Keep checking the website: (www.stmarysarlington.org/stmarysarlington/20s___30s) for details about upcoming events. Final plans are underway for the Fall, so don't miss out.

ST. MARY'S CHOIRS 2011-2012 SEASON BEGINS

Sunday, October 2, 5:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong: An Anglican Tradition

St. Mary's Choir of Men, Women, Boys & Girls

Phos Hilaron: Crisafulli, Preces: Lehman, Psalm 145: Thalben-Ball & Neswick, Second Service: Leighton,

Anthem: Adams

Reception following

Come reflect on the glories of God through music at Evensong. Settings of the canticles (The *Magnificat* or Song of Mary and the *Nunc dimittis* or Song of Simeon) will be sung as responses to the readings. A series of prayers called Preces and Responses are sung in versicle and response format between the officiant and choir. The service lasts less than an hour, and the choir also sings the psalm and generally an anthem. Come, refresh your soul in the presence of God.

Sunday, October 16,

Candlelight Concert 7:30 p.m

Risa Browder, violin; John Moran, cello;

Anthony Harvey, theorbo

Compline 8:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Schola

All Saints' Sunday, November 6, 5:00 p.m.

Choral Requiem Eucharist for All Saints

Eclogue for Piano and Strings by Gerald Finzi

Requiem by Maurice Duruflé with soloists and orchestra

sung by St. Mary's Choir of Men & Women

Reception following

St. Mary's Choir will sing the glorious music of Duruflé's *Requiem* with organ and strings to remember all the saints who have received their rest, especially parishioners who have died this past year.

LET ALL WHO HAVE A VOICE TO RAISE

If you are acquainted with anyone who enjoys singing (whether they are members of St. Mary's or not), please give a word of encouragement to join the community of our choir.

You could mention:

How wonderful the people are,

What great music we sing,

The adult choir sings mostly at 11:15 and youth choirs sing mostly at 9:00.

How much they will be appreciated,

Our singers represent a wide variety of levels of experience.

Our section leaders are there to help support the adult volunteers.

No one is there 100% of the time.

We rehearse music well in advance of when we sing it.

The adult choir will sing a Requiem in November with orchestra.

Adults and youth are exploring the possibility of UK cathedral residency.

Send an email to gregory.hooker@stmarysarlington.org to receive email reminders of upcoming musical offerings.

See St. Mary's Arlington facebook page for updates on what's happening!

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
Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. Grant Ambrose
Priest Associate	The Rev. Kate Sonderegger
Seminarians	Andrew Terry & Shireen Baker
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 Shackelford, 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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