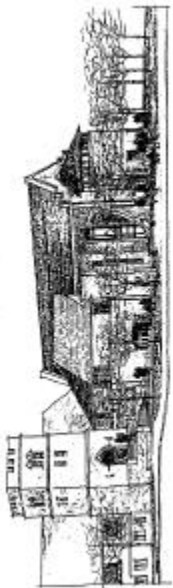


October
2010

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

Just as September 12 was a “Big Sunday” at St. Mary’s, October will likewise be a “Big Month” in the life of our parish.

On October 1, Father Merrow will return from Sabbatical. On Sunday, October 3, Bishop Shannon Johnston will join us for both the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services. In between, he will also lead our Adult Forum.

On Saturday evening, October 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Ballroom at 4301 Wilson Boulevard in Ballston, we will gather to celebrate Andrew’s 25 years of service to the people of St. Mary’s. For those of you who thrive in the digital world, an E-vite will be coming to your email box with all the details. We will also be mailing invitations to those of you who prefer paper to pixels. A great deal of planning on many fronts is going into this celebration. It is sure to be a special occasion in the life of the parish ... a joyous evening in honor of Andrew’s outstanding ministry to this community.

Yet the most important aspect of October as a “Big Month” is the fact that October is Stewardship Month. As you think and pray about what God is calling you to do with your commitment of time, talent and financial resources to St. Mary’s during the coming year, consider the following words.

“As faithful stewards of God's many blessings, we are obligated to fully share our gifts with others both as a parish and as individual members. We are committed to individual/family pledging and to contributing at least one quarter of our annual parish budget to needs outside the walls of St. Mary's.”

Those are not my words. They come directly from our St. Mary’s Mission Statement, which is rooted directly in the Gospel. An interesting statistic tells us that the Gospel references prayer and faith roughly 500 times each. Yet there are some 2,000 references to money. And no fewer than 27 of the parables of Christ deal with money and personal possessions. Is that a coincidence? I suspect not.

St. Mary’s today is a healthy and vibrant parish. We are blessed as one of the 10 largest parishes in the Diocese of Virginia. We give 25 percent of our annual resources to outreach. Importantly, that 25 percent gets set aside first ... before any other component of our budget is funded.

Our prosperity, however, is by no means guaranteed. Every year – and this year is no different – our ability to minister to a world desperately in need of hope is not determined by the Diocese, by the Clergy, or by the Vestry. It is determined by each one of us through our financial commitment to St. Mary’s. We operate a balanced budget at St. Mary’s. This year’s budget was \$1.32 million. In the coming months, your Vestry will make crucial financial decisions that will impact our collective lives. Those decisions will be driven by the success of our Every Member Canvass, the process by which everything at St. Mary’s is funded.

As we approach our annual In-Gathering Sunday on October 17 when we bring our pledge cards to church and lay our gifts on the altar, please think and pray about what St. Mary’s means to you and what your financial pledge means to St. Mary’s. Think about the lives we collectively touch through our Outreach programs. Think about today and more importantly think about tomorrow. Think about the road from here and where it might take us ... with your support.

In Thanksgiving for St. Mary’s,

Steve Bevis
Senior Warden



1st in a series—

Why we do what we do...Hymns

The Episcopal liturgy has several portions which are typically sung: the psalm, the “ordinary” or repeated portions of the Mass (Kyrie, Glory to God; Holy, holy, holy; and Lamb of God or other Fraction Anthem) and hymns. Hymns enrich our liturgy by providing a vehicle for our praise to God, by encouraging our reflection upon his word, and for facilitating our prayers.

Hymns are one of the richest treasures of faith and devotion in Christianity. Throughout biblical times and the history of the church, faithful men and women have testified to their faith in Christ in poetic form. If you look at the information about the author and composer at the bottom of each hymn in our hymnal, you soon realize that at St. Mary’s we sing a wide diversity of hymns from many traditions, many places and many times.

The hymns in procession at the beginning and at the end of the service primarily serve as opportunities for praise and thanksgiving but may also introduce or reflect upon themes present in the readings for the day. The sequence hymn sung before the gospel is a commentary or “sermon in song” on one of the readings. The hymns at communion are primarily sung as aids to prayer and reflection on the mysteries of Christ coming to us as bread and wine.

Hymns are chosen at St. Mary’s with many parameters in mind. Materials published by the Episcopal Church offer suggested hymns for each Sunday, but this is just a beginning point. Also taken into consideration are the hymns that are familiar to the St. Mary’s community. Hymns are typically chosen for an entire season so that several factors can be observed: the hymns chosen are the best match for the readings of the day; repetition of known hymns so that they remain known but not worn, the introduction of less familiar hymns along with known hymns so that each liturgy contains well-known and something less well-known. Records are kept by the Minister of Music to maintain this careful balance. In the Episcopal Church all elements of the liturgy including hymns are approved by the rector with consultation from persons skilled in music.

Here are a few suggestions to increase the possibility of God speaking to us through this sacred heritage:

☞ Sing with understanding (I Corinthians 14:15) Allow your feelings to flow in response to your understanding of the words the hymn writer has penned. Many times the easiest thing is to have a purely emotional response to the music missing the message God may be speaking through the words.

- ☞☞ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs* (Colossians 3:16) Make hymns part of the other six days of the week.
- ☞☞ Purchase a hymnal for devotional use.* Hymn texts from the *Hymnal 1982* are available online.
- ☞☞ Sing hymns on family occasions.*
- ☞☞ Listen to recordings of hymns in your home and while traveling.*
- ☞☞ Use hymns for table grace.*
- ☞☞ Sing a new song to the Lord* (Psalm 149) Singing a new song can be the result of a growing and inquiring relationship with God. Consider what God can say to you through an unfamiliar hymn.
- ☞☞ Sing unto the Lord* (Psalm 95) Think of your singing in corporate worship as something you do first for God, secondly for the encouragement of the assembly and lastly for yourself.

If we believe that our lives are to be lived in thanksgiving to God, we are never more alive than when we sing. If we believe we are a community of saints indivisible by time and space, we are never more together than when we sing. If we believe we are bound for heaven, we are never closer to God and the infinite glories of eternity than when we sing. Alleluia!
By Gregory Hooker?



Hold on to Your Hats!

On Saturday October 23, you are invited to help celebrate Andrew’s 25th anniversary of ministry at St. Mary’s at a dinner dance that will be held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Ballroom, 4301 Wilson Boulevard in Ballston.

For the low price of \$25.00 you can enjoy a Fajita Festival, soft drinks, adult libations and an anniversary cake as well as the company of your fellow parishoners as we gather to party in casual attire (including jeans) with Andrew and celebrate his service!

To reserve a place send a check to St. Mary’s (note “Anniversary Party” in memo line) for \$25.00 a person.

Outreach Outside Our Walls

“O Heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such goods works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in...

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.”

These are words spoken from the Table after communion sending us out renewed, restored, fed, forgiven. We may only be in church for a few hours each week ...month... year – but each time we gather – we are sent back out to work and love and serve in Christ’s name and to God’s glory.

St. Mary’s is a beautiful building and a vibrant community, but God’s church is out there.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Blessing of the Pets

St. Francis, a Patron Saint of so much, was said to preach to the birds, call the sun his brother and the moon his sister, and so, on or near his Feast Day of October 4th, it has become customary to bless our animal brethren (and sistern?)

This year, we’ve been invited to join with the people and pets of St. Peter’s in their beautiful outdoor chapel for a brief service and a pet blessing on Sunday, October 3rd at 5 p.m.

Give thanks to God for the blessing of animal friends and family in our lives, and join us.

The Harvest is Plentiful – Come Labor!

Youth and families and friends – all are invited to come gleaning with us on Saturday, October 16th. We will join our friends from MAGNET (The Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network) at a nearby farm to pick the produce left over after commercial picking, netting area food banks and pantries with thousands of pounds of good, fresh vegetables.

We will meet to carpool at 7 a.m., work in the fields until a picnic lunch (provided), then return to St. Mary’s in mid-afternoon.

Have fun. Do good. Come gleaning.



Pray for Haiti

Please keep the people of Haiti, and the people of St. Martin de Tours Parish in Port au Prince in your prayers, as we explore deeper relationships in mutual ministry and rebuilding. More soon.

VOICE Acts

VOICE (Virginian Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) will hold a Public Action in advance of Northern Virginia Congressional elections on Monday evening, October 18th – location to be announced. Come and see faith in effective and unified action. It’s pretty awesome.

Contact Paul Douthit psdouthit@yahoo.com, Marjorie Green, vagreenfam@verizon.net, RoseAnn Ashby, Roseann.ashby@ed.gov or Mary Beth Emerson, marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org.

Help the Homeless

St. Mary’s Youth take the lead in our Annual Help-The-Homeless Mini-Walk on Sunday evening, October 24th, after the 5 p.m. Service. All you need do is register and walk to help one of our ministry partners provide temporary, transitional and permanent housing to our sister and brothers in need. Be here, do that, get the T-shirt.

Mini-Towel Work Weekend Ahead

Beginning Friday, November 5th, St. Mary’s youth and adults will partner with area Episcopal churches for our first-ever Mini-Towel Work Weekend, modeled after the Towel Ministry Work Camps. Details being prayed over and worked out as we go to press – but this is gonna be good. Contact Mary Beth or Matt Centers, matt.centers@stmarysarlington.org.

Leadership needed. Yours...

On the Outreach Committee, during our Mini-Towel work weekend at Iglesia Santa Maria on November 5th & 6th, for our Coat Drive, for our Annual Thanksgiving Food Collection, for our Alternative Gift Mart this November, for our Offender’s Aid and Restoration “Project Angel” Gift Card Collection, and for our Child and Family Network Center’s Adopt-a-Family Christmas Gift Collection. Contact Mary Beth, or Christine Hahn, christinehahn@hotmail.com.

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 October Calendar

Sat., October 2	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Sr. High Hike Youth Confirmation Rehearsal & Prayer Vigil
Sun., October 3	6:00 p.m.	Youth Confirmation Party
Wed., October 6 & 20	7:00 p.m.	Senior High Women
Fri., Sun. October 8-10		8th Grade Weekend at Shrine Mont
Wed., October 13 & 27	7:00 p.m.	Junior High Guys
Sun., October 31	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group Halloween Party

YOUTH CONFIRMANDS ON THE MARCH

“It seems excessive... but that doesn’t mean it didn’t happen.” -Saul “Slash” Hudson, *Slash*

Vacation houses in the Hamptons. Private jets. All the latest gadgets. Six hours of homework every night. Sunday morning SAT prep classes. People do lots of excessive things. The question is: is it the good kind of excess or the bad kind? What’s the difference?

Recently, the youth confirmation class of St. Mary’s went on a retreat to Shrine Mont to learn more about the commitment they will be making when Bishop Johnston visits on October 3. While on the retreat, we discussed the meaning of committing yourself to Christ and how we are supposed to live our lives through Him and with Him. It seems excessive to commit to and trust in the Holy Spirit when we struggle with finding Him in our lives on a daily basis.

This challenge of knowing the Lord is kind of like climbing a mountain. On the confirmation retreat, the whole group went on a hike to climb North Mountain, a pretty tough hike that dwarfs Shrine Mont’s familiar Yellow Spring Mountain with the cross on the top. During the hike, cries of “What does this have to do with confirmation?” and “Why do we have to do this?” echoed up the ranks as we made our way through the switchbacks and over the boulders. Maybe this was excessive, but the minute you get to the top, the view is incredible and the group found out how worth it the challenge was.

Being a part of the Body of Christ is a challenge in itself especially when thinking of the events surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. *It seems excessive... but that doesn’t mean it didn’t happen.* It may not harbor the same kind of rock n’ roll excess that the former Guns N’ Roses guitar icon reflects on in his whirlwind of an autobiography, but it did happen. Living the resurrection will always be an excessive challenge, but it’s definitely the good kind. —Matt

20s & 30s MINISTRY

The Book Club is Back! Meet at the Chesterbrook Starbucks on October 10th at 6pm to discuss Anne Lamott's thoughtful book on her faith journey, Grace Eventually. We will explore this book as it pertains to our own understanding of Christianity. Come join us! For more information, contact Johanna Ogden at jaogden84@yahoo.com or Kathryn Dominguez at kathrynb6767@verizon.net.

Not Your Mother's Bible Study meets on Thursday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the Virginia Square Cosi to discuss the gospel for the coming week. Contact St. George’s parishioner Elena Keydel (keydelena@gmail.com) for more information.

20s and 30s Retreat: October 16 and 17 at Shrine Mont. Haven't signed up? It might not be too late.... Contact Grant Ambrose (tambrose@vts.edu)

A Prayer Tool Kit Women’s Group

When: Saturdays 10-11 a.m.

Where: St. Mary’s

When: October 16-November 20

Why: To discern what prayer is; what different modes of prayer exist; how we can use the Lord’s Prayer as a model and to take a field trip to VA Seminary Library.

Who: Barb Kreutzer (703) 998-0454 or email Barbara.Kreutzer@marymount.edu

St. Mary's Choir Events

Choral Evensong : Sunday, October 3, 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's St. Mary's Boys & Girls Choir, St. Paul's, Alexandria, Youth Choir

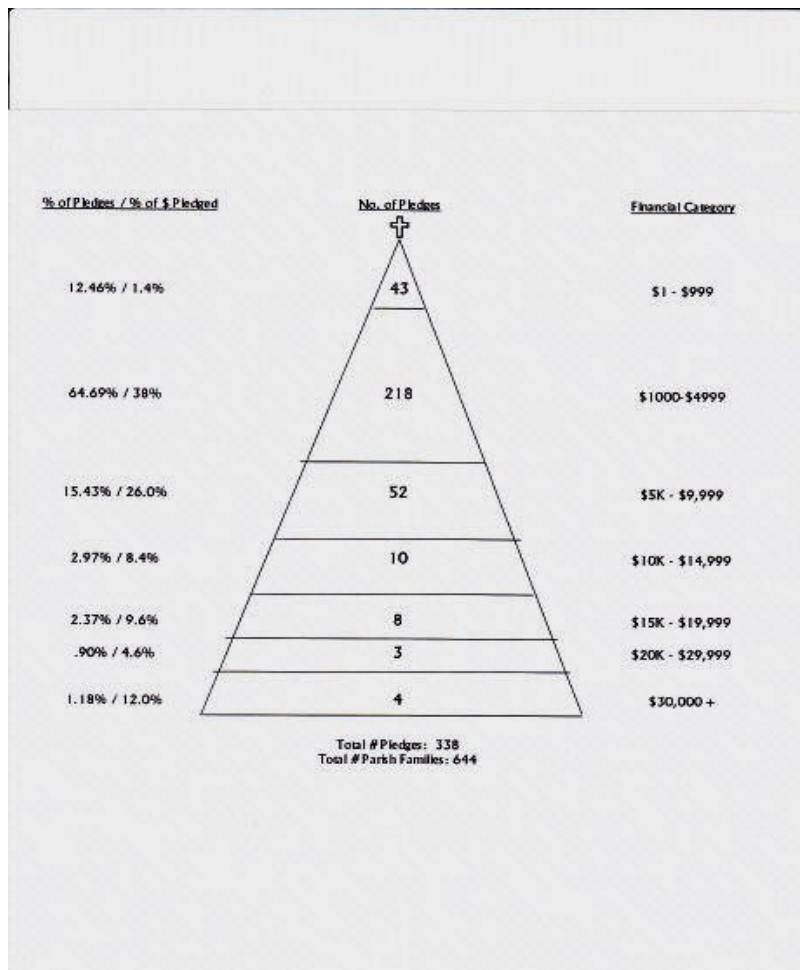
Come reflect on the glories of God through music at Evensong. Settings of the canticles (The Magnificat or Song of Mary and the Nunc dimittis or Song of Simeon) will be sung as responses to the readings. A series of prayers called Preces and Responses are sung in versicle and response format between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

Choral Requiem Eucharist for All Saints All Saints' Sunday, November 7, 5:00 p.m. Requiem in F Minor by Heinrich Biber with soloists and orchestra sung by St. Mary's Choir of Men & Women Reception following

The choir of St. Mary's will sing the glorious music of Biber's *Requiem* with an orchestra to remember all the saints who have received their rest, especially parishioners who have died this past year.

STEWARDSHIP

The model below represents the range of financial gifts pledged to St. Mary's in 2010 to support our many ministries.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Virginia

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office@stmarysarlington.org

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
Seminarian	Grant Ambrose
Seminarian	Andrew Terry
Music Minister	Gregory Hooker
Youth Minister	Matt Centers
Church School Supt.	Claudia Boswell
Treasurers	Bob Waters Kenneth Kimmel
Asst. Treasurers	Fred Barrett Susan Wojcik
Administrator	Pam Frick
Assistant Administrator	Patricia Klintberg
Outreach Coordinator	Mary Beth Emerson
Facilities Manager	Jane Shafran

2010 Vestry

Steve Bevis, Senior Warden
Carolyn Boswell, Junior Warden
Chris Eimas
John Franklin
John Keith
Lynette McCracken
Deana Platt
Parks Shackelford
Dennis Sawyer
Gordon Thomas
Paul Wojcik
Diane Wright, Registrar

Diocesan Council and Region III
(Arlington) Lay Delegates:
Steve Bevis
Mike Gilliland

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