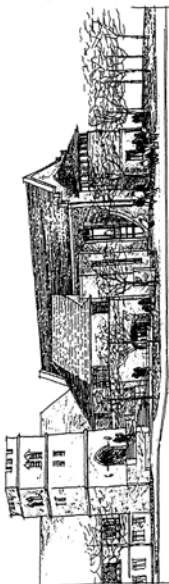


September
2011

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

If you have been around the Episcopal Church for any length of time you must have heard on numerous occasions that stewardship is about time, talent and treasure. While it is true that this alliteration is memorable and sums things up succinctly, it is also true that it is a little too neat and in fact a little misleading. Christian stewardship is not about things – like time, talent and treasure – but rather the quality of relationships that we enjoy with God, each other, and the world around us. The tools at our disposal in those relationships are the use of our time, talent, and our treasure.

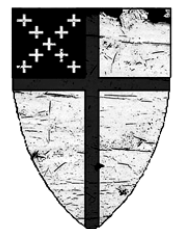
As Christians our very understanding of reality begins and ends with God. Everything that exists only because of the generative love of God. The notion of a self-made man is as nonsensical as it sounds. God is always the one who initiates. The quality of our response to God's overture of love determines the quality of our stewardship. This, of course, assumes that we are even aware of God's reaching out to us. As I tell parents in preparing them for the baptism of their child, "It is important to remember that once baptized you can be a 'lousy' Christian, but you can never be an 'un-Christian' because the power of baptism has little to do with us and everything to do with God."

I am quite certain that ten years ago God sent to us our brother Daniel Deng Bul, now the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church in the countries of Sudan and South Sudan. The fact that we were called together by God twelve hours before our country was attacked on 9/11, after his sharing the struggles of a civil war that claimed more than two million lives, is more than coincidence. Our response to his appeal to be in relationship with him and his people in prayer has sustained them and us ever since. The generosity of this congregation helped to build the Cathedral of Saint Matthew in the Diocese of Renk.

The tenth anniversary of 9/11 falls on a Sunday when we again have the opportunity to remember and honor those who died by looking forward in hope and by contributing to the building of a more just world. Archbishop Daniel has asked us to help fund a Synod of Bishops meeting in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, in November of this year. Together with others who have supported the Church in Sudan the Archbishop has asked me to come to Juba to speak to the Bishops in witness to our unity in Christ. South Sudan is a very poor country. One church, two countries that have been at war with one another for decades coming together as the Body of Christ. I invite you to bring your checkbook to church on Sunday, September 11th, to exercise your ministry as stewards of the God who "brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life."

May the Peace of the Lord always be with you.

Faithfully,



PARISH LIFE

Homecoming Sunday –September 11

Join us September 11, an opportunity for all to celebrate community, as we return from summer travels to the routine of autumn. We will remember the events of September 11, 2001, and we will give thanks for the continuing gifts of love and fellowship that bind our church together.

Festival Of Booths: 11:15 a.m – 12 noon

Following the 10:00 a.m. service, St. Mary's will host its annual Festival of Booths. This event gives us the chance to meet parishioners in various ministries face-to-face, and to experience the diversity of opportunities for service that this parish offers for the coming year.

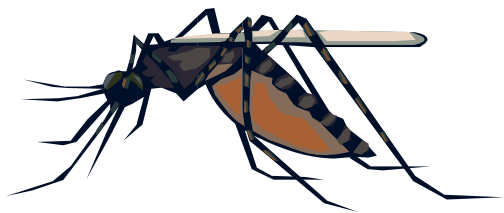
It's also an occasion for us to ask questions, glean information, and sign up to participate in small groups, ministries, retreats, and classes. A parish is a Christian community. As such, its members both receive the benefit of each person's gifts, and have the responsibility to give of their own time and talents, sharing with others. Whether the ministry is part of the worship, outreach, pastoral care, stewardship or education of our community, the invitation to engage in its life is always an open one. Please give prayerful consideration to how you would like to participate at St. Mary's in the coming year.

Children's Activities: 11:15 a.m.-12 noon

There will be activities in the classrooms for kids while parents and teens attend the Festival of Booths.

Lunch on the Point: 12 Noon-1:00 p.m.

Everyone will move out to the Point for a catered lunch. This is an opportunity to catch up with folks you haven't seen over the summer and to introduce yourself to newcomers and parishioners from other services you haven't met.



Nets for Life—50% of Goal!

Sunday, August 14th Bake Sale netted \$1000.26 towards St. Mary's Nets-For-Life Campaign. Emma Wright reports we have raised a total of \$5,849.21 meaning we are nearly 50% of the way to our goal of buying 1,000 nets. Many thanks to all who have contributed. Watch for new opportunities to donate in the future!

St. Anne's Guild Fall Retreat@Shrine Mont

All St. Mary's Moms/members of the St. Anne's Guild are invited to attend our first ever weekend retreat in beautiful Orkney Springs, VA, Sept. 30-Oct 2. We are excited to have a Moms-only early Fall Weekend at Shrine Mont to rest, reflect, and rejoice. Planned activities include fellowship, Mom's Morning Forum, Gourmet Bonfire, Complime, Eucharist, Wine/Cheese/Chocolate tasting, Massages and much more!

Rates: There are two options for registration:

Two nights shared lodging (Friday and Saturday); dinner on Friday; breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday; breakfast and lunch on Sunday; all programming with the exception of massage therapy services: \$170.

One night shared lodging (Saturday); lunch and dinner on Saturday; breakfast and lunch on Sunday; all programming with the exception of massage therapy services: \$120.

Deadline for signup is Sept. 9. Registration forms can be found on St. Mary's home page, under "Announcements." Go to www.stmarysarlington.org.

**Scholarships are available— contact anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org*

Memorial Garden Cross to be Dedicated

St. Mary's will dedicate the High Cross located in the Memorial Garden on the Glebe Road side of the Church, on Holy Cross Day, Wed., Sept. 14 at the 6:30 a.m. Eucharist. The cross used to grace the gable end of St. Mary's prior to the roof repairs in 2007. It has been saved until an appropriate place could be found for its display. Now it rests upon stone and brick, a high cross, indicating the landscape is claimed for Christ.

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

Save the Date: Gleaning Ahead

St. Mary's will go a-gleaning on Sept 17 at 8:00 a.m. to a yet-to-be determined farm. Watch for details in the Sunday Bulletins and weekly email Blast.





San Lucas parishioners receive communion from Episcopal Vicar Barbara Boghetich and her assistant, Ceasar, August 14.

Every Sunday the people of St. Mary’s remember our companion parish in Honduras, San Lucas during the Prayers of the People. In August, seven members of St. Mary’s were blessed to pray in person with the people of San Lucas, in the tiny community of Delicias del Norte, on the outskirts of San Pedro Sula, the 2nd largest city in Honduras.

St. Mary’s began its relationship with San Lucas in the summer of 2000, when a small mission group, led by then Assistant to the Rector , Father Robin Dodge, visited the poor rural village. The missionaries felt a strong call to deepen our commitment to San Lucas, and in Fall 2000, the St. Mary’s Outreach Committee recommended to the Vestry that we build a medical clinic on the grounds of San Lucas, using funds from Olive and John Paca’s bequest to St. Mary’s (the same gift that helped us renovate St. Mary’s in 1998). The clinic has indeed served its purpose of improving the frequency of medical missions and it ensures greater access for those unable to travel for medical care. As a bonus, the building also is used as a much-needed Sunday School classroom!

Ten years later, San Lucas is flourishing, and our relationship with the people of Delicias grows stronger. Over the past decade, our annual mission trips have focused on the clinic, building retaining walls in the hillside, creating benches for the church grounds and supporting the mission church in various ways. In all, over 60 members of St. Mary’s have visited San Lucas! This year’s trip focused on projects in the village itself. The parishioners remain very poor, and live in humble homes, some made of concrete blocks and cement, and others made of cardboard, plastic tarps and sheet metal. Still, in the past few years, there is greater access to running water (though the availability is unreliable), and missionaries have helped build cisterns pillas) to improve the sanitation and storage of water. A water purification system is now in place and electricity has been installed in some homes.

Parishioner Dennis Sawyer is a San Lucas veteran, as is Father Merrow, but for Charlie Wilmott, Tricia Klintberg, Elizabeth Sheehy, Katelyn Kyser and Dory Jones it was all new. During our short stay last month, we helped build two pillas and five ovens. The tile-and-cement ovens consume one-fifth of the firewood of traditional Honduran stoves, and greatly improve the air quality in homes by diverting the smoke up a chimney.

For several days, we clambered up steep trails, carrying shovels, water, and bricks; and, we are now all experts at mixing cement. We sweated – a lot – and laughed – a lot! We also spent as much time as possible with the children of Delicias. Surrounded by both poverty and breath-taking beauty, they exude joy and warmth, and they LOVE to have their picture taken. Our paparazza missionary was constantly greeted with the cry, “Isabel, un foto”, and the result was some incredible pictures! On our final day, the youth of the parish joined us, along with Rev. Barbara, the vicar of San Lucas, for a hike to Bamboo Falls, a spectacular watering hole near the top of a mountain. Heaven on Earth!

With all the need and suffering in this world, it is tempting to sprinkle our resources over a wide-range of projects, hopefully to do some good along the way. But our Honduran ministry is special. At San Lucas, we are in relationship with our Anglican brothers and sisters. With each visit, we strengthen the bonds with Bonifacio, the stone-mason and his son, Nelson. This year we found a new friend in Fredy, our driver, guide and task-master, and we reunited with Rosita, Lolita, Don Miguel, Josue and all our family in Delicias del Norte. When we participate fully in the mission trips, we are blessed to be real, to be present in Christ’s name, and our own relationship with God can only be better for it.



L to R: Elizabeth Sheehy, the author of this account, Bonifacio, Charlie Wilmott, Fr. Merrow and Fredy apply cement to the base of a new Pila.

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>

Sun., Sept. 11	SecondSundays@6
Wed., Sept. 21	Jr. High Guys/Jr. High Girls
Sun., Sept. 25	Youth & Family Potluck
Wed., Sept. 28	Sr. High Guys/Jr. High Girls

CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

Confirmation classes will begin in October for St. Mary’s youth in 7th & 8th grades. Confirmation preparation begins with a weekend retreat at Shrine Mont, October 7-9. This retreat is an essential part of the preparation process and is **mandatory** for all participants. Regular classes begin on Tuesday, October 18, meeting in the vestry from 6:30-7:30 p.m. each Tuesday through December 20.

A distinctive feature of confirmation preparation at St. Mary’s is the work that young people undertake with an adult mentor. A mentor is an adult who is not a family member but rather a trusted part of the St. Mary’s community. Each young person will be asked to think about qualities that mark a mature Christian and look for an adult who models those qualities. Our hope is each youth will (with help from clergy and staff) identify an adult to be his or her mentor by October 18, the first regular class meeting. Youth will then meet individually with their mentors on the second Tuesday of each month in lieu of the regular class gathering in the Vestry. The class will gather for a final session on Tuesday, January 10.

Parents are asked to participate in confirmation in several ways. Young people, of course, need assistance with transportation and scheduling; they need questions and insights and prayers, as well. Parents are also asked to attend the first class on October 18—during which time they will have their own orientation to the confirmation process—and the final class on January 10.

We hope that parents and children will discuss confirmation together and decide if this is the right year to undertake the commitment. Although confirmation preparation is open to all young people at St. Mary’s who have reached 7th grade, not all 7th graders are ready for confirmation. Some young people may have significant questions about their faith. Others may be interested in confirmation but not able to make the time commitment that confirmation requires. The decision to be confirmed should be the result of prayers—not simply a birth date. Interested in the journey? Contact Matt Centers, Youth Minister, at matt.centers@stmarysarlington.org. *Note:* We will invite older youth not yet confirmed to consider making this commitment and plan accordingly.

A New Formulation: Outreach for Children and Youth

Ages 3 years – 12th grade

With the guidance of the Rev. Grant Ambrose, who helps to coordinate outreach, and Mrs. Claudia Boswell, Church School Superintendent, a new program begins this Sunday School year to introduce our young people to the joys of outreach and St. Mary’s ministries. The program starts at the 3-year-old class level and continues through 12th grade. By the time a young person at St. Mary’s graduates from high school, it is our hope that involvement in this program will have equipped him or her with the faith, inspiration, and skills needed to become an adult Christian ready to share the Good News of the Gospel by making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Our method is to have each younger class (3 yrs – 5th grade) be involved with an outreach project two times per year on Sunday mornings. Each grade will have the same projects every year, thus providing our children with continuity as they move up through the grades.

In Youth Group (6th-12th grade), we have reserved the second Sunday of every month, beginning Sept. 11, to be devoted to an evening of outreach. We’ll meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m., have dinner and get to work. Aptly, our gatherings will be called **“SecondSundays@6”**. At these meetings we will tackle a ministry every month. St. Mary’s partners with ministries near and far, from South Arlington to South Sudan. Exposure to these ministries will also enable individuals to consider a longer-term volunteer commitment, should they feel called to do so.

This is an opportunity for Christian formation, for education about our local and global communities, for personal empowerment to create change and for understanding that outreach is not only about improving the lives of others but also about building relationships as members of the Body of Christ. Please send your questions, comments and ideas to: Nina Bacas, Outreach Coordinator for Children and Youth at St. Mary’s nbacas@comcast.net 571-230-4771

ST. MARY'S CHOIRS 2011-2012 SEASON BEGINS

The St. Mary's Music Ministry is composed of six choirs with over 100 participants (Choir parents count too!). As you consider opportunities for service and growth for yourself and/or your children for the upcoming months, please consider the joy, fellowship and blessing of singing with one of St. Mary's Choirs. If you and/or your child have an interest in participating, please contact Gregory Hooker, Minister of Music (703-527-6800 or gregory.hooker@stmarysarlington.org). For more information about any of the St. Mary's Choirs and to find the combined choir schedule see our website: www.stmarysarlington.org.

START-UP DATES FOR ALL CHOIRS

Choirs for Boys and Girls & Treble Choir

6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 8

Kick-Off Potluck Dinner for Treble Choir and Boys & Girls Choir families.
Sign-up is included on registration form.

6:30-7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 15

Rehearsals begin for Treble Choir (Boys and Girls, Kindergarten through 3rd grade)

6:30-7:55 p.m., Thursday, September 15 (Boys & Girls Choir for 4th grade and up)

Music Skills Training at 6:30 and Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

Boy and girl choristers rehearse on Thursday evenings and sing primarily for the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist during the school year.

St. Mary's Choir of Men & Women begins rehearsals Wednesday, September 7 (7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.) Adult singers rehearse on Wednesday evenings 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., sing primarily for the 11:15 a.m. each Sunday throughout the school year and at 10:00 a.m. during the summer. In addition to the Sunday morning Eucharist, the Parish Choir sings monthly (October through May except January) for special liturgies including Evensong, a Requiem Mass for All Saints, and Lessons and Carols.

St. Mary's Schola begins rehearsals Sunday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. Compline is offered at 8:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, September through May.

Handbell Choir begins rehearsals Wednesday, September 14 (6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.)

The adult handbell choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and contributes monthly to the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Eucharist and is directed by bass section leader Gregory Stuart.

On-going registration: Sundays, September 4, 11

Registration for all Choirs in Paca Hall or email Gregory for a form at Gregory.hooker@stmarysarlington.org

Upcoming Music Events

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, CANDLELIGHT CONCERT at 7:30 p.m. by Gregory Hooker, piano
COMPLINE AT 8:00 p.m. by St. Mary's Schola**

Enjoy the candlelit beauty of the church as prayers are sung on your behalf by members of St. Mary's Schola. The service is sung on the third Sunday evening throughout the school year, lasts 20 minutes and is the perfect way to end the day! Please note the new time this year (8:00 p.m.) and our new offering of 30 minute concerts preceding Compline. Please go to http://www.stmarysarlington.org/stmarysarlington/musical_offerings for more information.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 5:00 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG & RECEPTION

At the English Reformation, the two monastic evening prayer services of vespers and compline were combined into one service called evening prayer or evensong, becoming one of the glories of our Anglican tradition. At choral evensong, the choir takes a primary role in offering prayer and praise on behalf of the congregation. St. Mary's Choirs offer this rich and living tradition of worship throughout the school year, and everyone is warmly invited to this 45-minute service.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

2609 N. Glebe Road ☩ Arlington, Virginia 22207



Saint Mary's Episcopal Church The Diocese of Virginia

703.527.6800; fax 703.527.6853

office@stmarysarlington.org

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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
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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