

August
2008

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

As I write this, many of the Bishops of the Anglican Communion are meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. This once-a-decade meeting held since the middle of the 19th century, with the exception of the two world wars, has traditionally been seen as one of the outward signs of our unity as Anglicans. This year a significant minority of Anglican Bishops chose not to meet with the Archbishop to demonstrate their profound disagreement with the direction the Communion is taking. In our diocese we find ourselves locked in court battles about the disposition of property belonging to the Diocese of Virginia but claimed by persons wanting to leave the Episcopal Church. As some of you know, I have worked for many years trying to convince those unhappy to be a “loyal opposition”, to embrace those convictions within our Episcopal Church. By their actions they have unequivocally demonstrated that they have chosen a different course.

It seems to me that the differences that we are struggling with have less to do with conflicting biblical interpretations than a fundamental clash of world views. It appears that this divide cannot be bridged by talking; ironically in fact talking about it is a major piece of the problem. As traditional Anglicans (and I consider myself as such, lest there be any confusion) we try to recognize some fundamental assumptions that guide our life together. For us dialogue between arguing parties has always been not only the means to achieving our goals but a worthy goal in and of itself... we want everyone at the table even those that we think are dead wrong. Those who have left believe that dialogue is a dodge, a cover, to avoid the issue rather than a means to address the issue.

The second piece that we as traditional Anglicans hold are the twin convictions that all of us “see in a mirror dimly” and that God is our only judge. What I mean is that we hold our most cherished beliefs with the recognition that all of us may not possess the entire and complete truth. Likewise it is clear from Scripture that judgment has been delegated to the second person of the Trinity. Christ is the offering and the victim; Christ is our judge and our savior.

After years of struggling over this I believe that it is time for all of us to move on in our separate directions. I also believe that God will take the imperfect offering of Anglicans and the imperfect offering of break-away Anglicans and through the blood of Christ redeem them and put them to use in witnessing to a broken and sinful world. The Church throughout her history has struggled with various issues. We are in the midst of one of those struggles right now. That, however, shouldn't keep us from asking God's blessing on those who disagree with us and it shouldn't distract us from the mission and ministry entrusted to us by God.

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Andrew

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ABOUT THIS FALL AT ST. MARY'S

Have you been feeling called to get more involved with the St. Mary's community but aren't sure how? A plethora of ministry leadership opportunities are available at St. Mary's this fall just waiting for you!

*Co-leadership (leading as a team) is welcomed and encouraged!
Read on to find out more.*

Children's Bulletins - A volunteer is needed to run, fold, and stuff 40-60 children's bulletins each week. These are the activity bulletins provided (with colored pencils) each week for young children. You can work an hour in the office; or, you can run the bulletins and do the folding and stuffing at home.

Parish Picnic - This year the parish picnic is Sunday, October 19. The parish picnic is a wonderful opportunity to spend time in the mountains at the Shafran's home in Amissville (near Warrenton). Leading

this event includes coordinating sign-ups for set up, clean up, and food for the potluck, working with Jane to gather supplies and pack the van, and any other coordination with the Shafran family.

Interested in this fabulous opportunity? Be in touch with Jane Shafran (703-527-6800 or jane.shafran@stmarysarlington.org).

Alternative Gift Mart - This year, the Alternative Gift Mart will take place on Sunday, November 23. The Alternative Gift Mart is a fantastic offering of gifts from ministries throughout the parish and wider community and takes place between all services. Leading this event includes coordinating the sign-up of ministries who will participate in the gift mart, getting help on Friday, November 21 and Saturday, November 22 in setting up the parish hall, and getting support in cleaning up after the event. Want to know more? Be in touch with Mary Beth Emerson at Marybeth.Emerson@stmarysarlington.org or 703-527-6800.

Christmas Pageant - As always, the Christmas Pageant takes place at the 3pm and 5pm Christmas Eve Services. This magnificent ministry prepares our children to be the ministers of the Word for these two services and develop their gifts for ministry in the church.

Coordinating this event includes loving our kids, overseeing the sign-up for parts in the pageant, assigning the parts, meeting with parents, overseeing the 2 rehearsals, and ultimately overseeing the pageant. In years' past, 2 co-coordinators for each pageant has been a great and successful approach to leading this ministry. Interested in working together to oversee this wonderful ministry to our children at St. Mary's? Want to know more? Be in touch with Pam Frick at pam.frick@stmarysarlington.org or 703-527-6800.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8!

Believe it or not, our Episcopal Visitation is around the corner (November 9) and so are confirmation classes. This Fall, we will be offering separate Confirmation classes for both adults and for our youth. These classes will meet on Monday nights beginning September 8. The classes consist of 8 meetings, the final class being Monday, November 3. All classes are mandatory. If you want to learn more about the Episcopal Church, desire to become a member of St. Mary's, and want to take that next step in your journey of faith, these classes are for you.

Youth classes will meet at St. Mary's from 6:00-7:30pm with dinner provided as part of the class. Confirmation classes are offered for all **youth grades 7 and up** and are a wonderful opportunity for our young people to discover what it means to make an adult proclamation of faith while surrounded by community.

Adult classes will meet at St. Mary's from 7:45-9:00pm. All adults interested in being confirmed in the Episcopal Church, received into the Episcopal Church, or who wish

to reaffirm their faith and baptismal vows are welcome and encouraged to join us for these classes.

Remember that all active members are encouraged to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church. The sacrament of Confirmation is a special service in which you *confirm* your baptismal vows and receive the laying on of hands by the Bishop of our Diocese. Confirmed members of other Christian traditions are *received* by the Bishop into the Episcopal Church. And, finally confirmed Episcopalians seeking to renew their baptismal vows and *reaffirm* their commitment to the Episcopal Church are able to do so with the blessing of the bishop at his annual visitation.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for either the adult or youth classes this Fall, please contact Pam Frick at Pam.Frick@stmarysarlington.org or The Rev. Jenn Strawbridge at Jennifer.strawbridge@stmarysarlington.org or both at 703.527.6800.

MUSIC NOTES

St. Mary's Choirs

2008-2009 Registration - Paca Parish Hall

August 24th, 31st & September 7th

Choirs for Boys and Girls

Treble Choir (Boys and Girls, K. through 3rd grade)

Boys and Girls Choir (4th grade and up)

Rehearsals and Dinners begin Thursday, September 18.

Treble Choir sings once a month at the 9:00 a.m.

Eucharist. The Boys and Girls Choir sings twice a month throughout the school year. The Boys & Girls Choir plans fall and spring weekend trips to share our music with other parishes and offers the opportunity to attend summer singing camps.

Choirs for Adults

Parish Choir begins rehearsals Wednesday, September 10 (7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.)

Adult singers rehearse on Wednesday evenings 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and sing at 11:15 a.m. each Sunday throughout the school year (9:00 a.m. first Sundays of the month) and at 10:00 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, Lessons and Carols and Evening Prayer.

20'S & 30'S GROUP MINISTRY

THE BRUNCH BUNCH

Join us for brunch on **Sunday, August 3rd!** We will meet in the Paca Hall after the 10:00 service (around 11:15) and depart for brunch at a local spot.

BARE BIBLE STUDY

Join Episcopalians in their 20s and 30s from the Northern VA region on **Thursday, August 14th from 8-9:30 pm** for bible study at Cosi 3505 Fairfax Street (across from St. George's Episcopal Church; Virginia Square).

HAPPY HOUR

Join Episcopalians in their 20s and 30s for happy hour on **Thursday, August 28th** from 6-8pm. Location TBD. Check the St. Mary's 20's & 30's page. Kick back and enjoy food, drinks, and fellowship.

NEW!!! SISTERS BOOK GROUP

Open to women in their 20s and 30s. We will gather once a month on the first Tuesday of the month. Our first meeting will be Tuesday **September 2nd** from **8-9(ish)** at Elizabeth Marie's home (4728 26th St. N.). Our first book will be Dave Eggers' What is the What.

Handbell Choir begins rehearsals Wednesday, September 17 (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 and 11:15 a.m. Eucharist.

For more information please see our website:

(www.stmarysarlington.org) or contact

Gregory Hooker, Minister of Music

(703-527-6800, gregory.hooker@stmarysarlington.org)

Summer Choir News

Boys & Girls Choir member Grace Miller and Parish Choir Choral Scholar Emerson Sieverts attended Royal School of Church Music Singing Courses in July. Grace attended the Carolina Course in Raleigh, (Katherine Dienes-Williams, Guilford Cathedral, UK, music director) and Emerson attended the Montreal course (John Scott, St. Thomas, Fifth Ave., New York, music director). Both choristers sang a large repertoire which included settings of the mass and music for evensong from England and the United States as well as European classics. In addition to exciting services at Duke Chapel and Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, the choristers enjoyed recreation, excursions and meeting choristers from across the United States at RSCM camp.

Brief Synopsis: "Separated from his family, Valentino Achak Deng becomes a refugee in war-ravaged southern Sudan. His travels bring him in contact with enemy soldiers, with liberation rebels, with hyenas and lions, with disease and starvation, and with deadly *Murahaleen* (militias on horseback)—the same sort who currently terrorize Darfur. Based closely on actual experiences, *What Is the What* is heartrending and astonishing, filled with adventure, suspense, tragedy, and, finally, triumph."

NATIONALS GAME

Let's head to the ballpark and watch the dead presidents round the bases! Join us Friday, August 1st, for the **Nationals' home game** against the **Cincinnati Reds**. We're sitting in the cheap seats, so tickets won't be more than \$20 a person. The first pitch is at 7:35pm. We'll meet at 7pm at the Home Plate Gate. Let me know by July 25th if you plan on coming.

Keep up-to-date with our activities at: <http://triviumarlington.blogspot.com/> and <http://stmarys-20sand30s.tripod.com/stmarys20s30sministry/id10.html>

Contact elizabeth.marie@stmarysarlington.org for more 20's & 30's info

Calendar Page

Click the [St. Mary's Calendar](#) link on our homepage for the most up-to-date schedule of events here at St. Mary's

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Let's Head Down River!

Summer Vacation Day Trip to Shenandoah River!

When: **Thursday, August 7th**

Meet up at St. Mary's at 9:00 a.m.

Transportation via St. Mary's van

Cost: \$20 per person

Bring: a Lunch, drinks, sun screen!



RSVP by email: mike.smith@stmarysarlington.org

PILGRIMAGE UPDATES

Youth Pilgrimage

We are so excited to have started the planning process for our next Youth Pilgrimage to England in 2009. The dates of the trip will most likely be June 20-27, 2009. This pilgrimage is open to all youth who have completed the Confirmation Class and not yet been a part of this life-changing, Spirit-filled trip. Extra commitments to classes are required throughout the Spring, as well as participation in all fundraising efforts. To find out more information and to sign up for the 2009 Youth Pilgrimage, please join us at one of the following meetings: 4pm on Sunday, September 7 or 4pm on Sunday, September 14. If you have any questions before these gatherings, please be in touch with Jenn Jennifer.strawbridge@stmarysarlington.org.

MISSION TRIP FORUMS

Did you know that by August 1, approximately 63 St. Mary's parishioners – youth and adults – will have set out in mission from St. Mary's this summer? Did you know that St. Mary's offered 4 different mission trip opportunities in June-July 2008? You are invited to participate in these mission trips through word and image on Sundays throughout August. Join us following the 10am service as our missionaries give first-hand accounts of their trips, with pictures included!

Tuesday, August 5 at 6:30pm is the Annual Shareholders Dinner for all those who have contributed to the mission trips this summer. Join our youth for dinner and get the first account of summer mission at St. Mary's.

St. Mary's Youth Group to Kings Dominion!

Let's load up the St. Mary's Party van and head on down to Kings Dominion amusement park!

When: **Thursday, August 14th**

Meet up in the St. Mary's parking lot at 10:00am sharp.

Bring: A lunch, bathing suit, sunscreen, and enough \$\$ for games and food.

Cost: \$40

Must RSVP 12 noon on Sunday, August 10th to

mike.smith@stmarysarlington.org

Adult Pilgrimage

Many adults have mentioned that they would like to learn about the Anglican Church and our Episcopal roots in England – just like the pilgrimage opportunity we offer to our youth every 2 years. We are currently exploring the possibility of offering an Adult Pilgrimage to England in the summer of 2010. This trip would be similar to the pilgrimage we offer to our youth – exploring the roots of Anglicanism while building relationships with our partner parishes in London – except for adults only. If this is something that interests you, please be in touch with Jenn (Jennifer.strawbridge@stmarysarlington.org).

If the interest is there, we'll be back in touch with more information!

Sunday, August 10 at 11:15am – Join us to learn more about the Towel Ministry Mission Trips this summer. These trips took place in Valle Crucis and Swansboro, NC.

Sunday, August 17 at 11:15am – Join us to learn more about the mission trip to Heifer Project International's Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas.

Sunday, August 24 at 11:15am – Join us to learn more about our most recent trip to the Gulf Coast to continue the post-Katrina rebuilding efforts.

2008 Summer Outreach Camp

Theme: "ONE" Week

What can ONE kid do in ONE week to help change the world??

What can one kid do in one week?? Plenty. You can change and be changed, you can work and be worked on, you can learn and make new friends and have BIG fun. This August, rising 6th through 9th Graders are invited to join us for our annual Outreach Camp, where this year we'll be exploring the Millennium Development Goals, in ways that will inform and transform. Our friends from St. James', Leesburg, St. Patrick's, Falls Church, St. Peter's, Arlington, and Iglesia Santa Maria, Falls Church will join us for this wonderful week.

Topics covered throughout the week:

Day 1 - Sustaining Our Environment

Day 2 - World Hunger

Day 3 - World Health

Day 4 - Microenterprise & Empowerment

Day 5 - Flat Out Fun (Water Park Style!!)

"ONE" Week Outreach Camp is this August 25th through 29th – Sign-up Sheet in the Parish Hall and look for registration forms in your mailbox soon, or contact Mary Beth at Marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org.



OAR Life Coaching

Re-entry for an ex-offender is hard. Which is why being welcomed by the community of the faithful can make a tremendously positive impact. Through federal, local and private grants, Offenders Aid and Restoration is establishing "Life Coaching" programs with area churches.

Non-violent ex-offenders are placed for six months with a faith community, and a small team of Life Coaches meets with the client for conversation. Recidivism rates plummet where faith, hope and love apply. To volunteer, please sign-up in Paca Hall or contact Mary Beth in the Parish Office.

ESL Tutoring at Iglesia Santa Maria continues this Fall

Our relationship with our brothers and sisters at Santa Maria continues to grow deeper through the efforts of our dedicated group of outstanding ESL tutors. Ask any one of them and you are sure to hear story after story of the blessing this ministry has been for both student and teacher.

ESL classes are held Monday and Thursday evenings and will be resuming in September. Lesson plans are provided ahead of time. **No classroom or Spanish language experience necessary!** Please prayerfully consider giving of your time and talent to this rewarding ministry. For further information, please be in touch with Mary Beth or, better yet, sign-up in Paca Parish Hall.

VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement)

VOICE is the Northern Virginia

chapter of Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), which brings together congregations, individuals, and non-profit organizations to create improved political and social realities in the public arena. VOICE works in such areas as living wage, affordable owner-occupied housing, alliance schools and urban revitalization.

VOICE is gearing up for its first Community Action program slated to be held at George Mason University's Patriot Center in October. More information in next month's *Messenger* - stay tuned!

A Directory Update is Coming!

We hope to have a new directory for you by the beginning of September. It will not be a pictorial version; but, it will provide updated address and phone information for parishioners. A draft is currently posted in the Paca Parish Hall. PLEASE verify your information. If you will be moving soon and know your new information, you may want to go ahead and post it. Directions for making changes are given on the tables with the directory pages. Thank you.

Attention Ministry Leaders:

It is time to update the Ministries Booklet so we can print it in time for the Festival of Booths. A letter with information on both the Festival and your ministry page(s) will be arriving soon. Please respond promptly. If your leadership has changed, please pass the letter on to the appropriate person. The Festival of Booths will be held Sunday, September 14th.

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	Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee
Rector	Rev. Andrew T. P. Merrow
Associate to the Rector	Rev. Jennifer R. Strawbridge
Assistant to the Rector	Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna
Seminarian	Christopher M. Streeter
Seminarian	Charles L. Fischer, III
Music Minister	Gregory Hooker
Church School Supt.	Claudia Boswell
Treasurers	Bob Waters Kenneth Kimmel
Asst. Treasurers	Fred Barrett Susan Wojcik
Administrator	Pam Frick
Outreach Coordinator	Mary Beth Emerson
Youth Minister	Mike Smith
Facilities Manager	Jane Shafran

2008 Vestry

Steve Bevis
Carolyn Boswell, Register
Catherine Ezzard
Lynette McCracken
Kate Renehan Waters, Junior Warden
Dennis Sawyer
Janet Tasker
Kevin Wade, Senior Warden
Diane Wright

Diocesan Council and Region III

(Arlington) Lay Delegates:

Steve Bevis
Mike Gilliland
Marcia Dodge

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