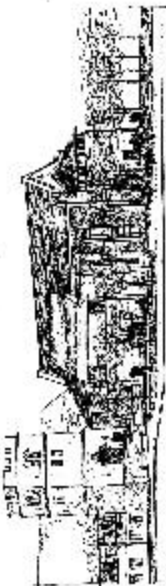


May  
2008

# Saint Mary's Messenger



## Dear Friends,

There is great truth to the old adage that if you want to make God laugh then tell Him your plans for your life.

I write this on the day after returning from the enthronement of our friend Daniel Deng Bul as Anglican Archbishop of the Sudan. He will be receiving an Honorary Doctorate from Virginia Theological Seminary on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and we have every reason to believe that he will be with us sometime during his visit to Washington. The contrast between Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, and Washington D. C. could not be greater. I will speak to those differences among other things at the forum on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a. m.

Hopes and dreams must be translated into goals and plans or they remain in the realm of fantasy. That said, however, for the Christian there is a crucial and potentially life-giving caveat. We understand that life is to be lived in response to God's call and claim upon our lives. This is easier said than done for there is always a cost involved in trusting God to lead and our following. Most of the great figures both in the bible and in the Church's continuing story found themselves in places they never expected and often did not want to be. Yet in the act of obedient discipleship God placed them where they were needed and useful to His larger purposes.

This is totally counter cultural to our conventional wisdom of the necessary steps that must be taken for a "successful" life to be gained. Even before my son Jonathan had been born people were concerned that he be admitted to the "right" pre-school so that he could get into the "proper" kindergarten and so forth and so on. This mind set is both pervasive and pernicious and it is not particularly Christian. You and I have no way of knowing in advance the life journey of a child growing up in Juba or in Washington. We can anticipate their relative trajectory given the realities they must face on the ground, but the goal for each child is exactly the same goal as it is for every human being - to grow into the full stature of Christ.

To grow into the full stature of Christ requires many things. One of them without a doubt is the willingness to allow God's grace to unfold in our lives, to be open to possibilities even unanticipated and unwanted, rather than our attempting to control and direct every step of the journey. We walk the way of the Cross but its author is also our guide. The journey is His and we are privileged to follow in the way where He has led.

May the peace of the Lord always be with you.

Faithfully,

## ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAY

### Sunday Forums - 10:15 a.m.

#### May 4

Archbishop Daniel's Enthronement in Sudan

#### May 11

Coffee Hour & Plant Sale Delivery for Mother's Day

#### May 18

Fellowship Coffee Hour in Paca Hall

#### May 25

Fellowship Coffee Hour in Paca Hall

### Women's Silent Retreat Weekend at DaySpring

Coordinated by Pam Frick and Dr. Joan Turkus, the retreat will be held

**Friday, May 30 (late afternoon) to Sunday, June 1 (after lunch).**

Our theme is "Creating a Faith Self-Portrait." Living life in the Spirit leads

each of us on a journey that is, paradoxically, both communal and unique. Individual circumstances create an intimate relationship with God. Yet, we share the gifts of liturgy, Scripture, and tradition through community to help us understand and shape our response to God's call to each of us. No one makes the journey of faith in the same way, at the same speed. We are asked simply to uphold one another on that journey, understanding that it lasts a lifetime.

This retreat is meant to provide space for you to explore where you are on your journey. We will have some short meditations on "Life in the Spirit" – then the majority of the weekend is for you to have a dialogue with God.

To that end, each of you will work on a "Faith Self-Portrait."

You can choose several media including but not limited to: writing a poem or prayer; drawing; creating a collage or mandala; or picking a passage of Scripture that speaks to you personally and writing a short paragraph about what it reflects about your current place on your faith journey. At the end of the retreat people may share their "portrait" if they wish, but they are not required to do so. This will simply be a personal exercise to help in your weekend's focus.

Interested? Contact Pam Frick (703-527-6800 or [Pam.Frick@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:Pam.Frick@stmarysarlington.org)).

The cost is \$150.00 for the weekend; scholarships are available. A sign-up is posted in the Paca Hall.

## PARISH LIFE

### UTO Ingathering

We are holding our next UTO Ingathering on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please convert the contents of your blue box to either folding money or a check and use the blue UTO envelopes that will be available with your bulletins. UTO representatives will follow the ushers, at the offertory, to collect all UTO offerings. The total will be counted and a check sent to the UTO.

UTO, a program of the Episcopal Church that fosters the mission of the whole church, was founded and has been administered by women since 1889. Each year over \$2 million is given away in grants to continue, support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the church throughout the world. Grant requests are highly diverse and are submitted by national and international communities.

So, when you put a nickel, a dime, or a dollar into your little Blue Box as a

thanksgiving, think of the many people you are helping to also say, "Thank you!" for God's presence in their lives.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry Annual Tea



The Prayer Shawl Ministry's Annual Tea will be held **Saturday afternoon, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in the Vestry Room.**

All members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry are invited to attend as well as anyone interested in finding joining in or just finding out more about this wonderful ministry that has touched the lives of so many members of our parish. Please RSVP to Janet Tasker at 703-356-0605 or [jtasker@cox.net](mailto:jtasker@cox.net).

### Vacation Bible School

VBS needs your help to turn the Parish Hall into a Rain Forest Canopy! We are looking to borrow items such as: **Large Potted Plants, Green Fabrics, Sheets, Globes, Carpet Rolls, Jute Ropes, Plastic or Stuffed Rainforest Critters (bugs, frogs, etc.), or any**

### Rainforest Decorations!

If you have items to donate or want to ask some questions about this year's VBS, please contact **Amy Kowalski** (703-534-1093 or [anmswk@verizon.net](mailto:anmswk@verizon.net)).

### Shrine Mont - June 6-8

Our most eagerly anticipated weekend of the year is **June 6-8!** Worship in the beautiful Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, enjoy the Variety Show, visit on the porch, hike the mountain, be a kid, take part in the Ultimate (Youth vs. Wisdom) Showdown, oh, and so much more! Our Speaker & Preacher for the weekend is the Rev. Jesus Reyes, Vicar of Iglesia Santa Maria. Sign-up sheet and Registration Forms are in the Parish Hall or contact Chris Streeter [chris.streeter@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:chris.streeter@stmarysarlington.org) or Mary Beth Emerson [Marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:Marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org) or at (703) 527-6800.

## MUSIC NOTES

### Choral Evensong for Ascension Day

Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Choirs of St. Mary's and Christ Church, Alexandria

Stanford in A

Barnby, Psalm 93

Phillips, Preces and Responses

Finzi, God is Gone Up with a Triumphant Shout!

Messiaen, Outburst of Joy

### Choral Vespers, Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Parish Choir and the Boys & Girls Choir

Blake, Magnificat

J. S. Bach, Cantata No. 37, *Wer da gläubet und getauft wird*

Bach wrote over 200 cantatas in his role as Cantor for each service of the church. Cantatas or "hauptmusik" (main music) would have been considered expositions of the lessons of the day, the musical equivalent of the sermon. No. 37 is one of several cantatas written for Ascension and theme of this work is set forth in the text of the opening movement from Mark 16:16, "He who trusts and is baptized shall have salvation." The reward of faith is the very heaven to which Christ has ascended as the believer's eternal reward. Our soloists for the cantata are Brendan Slinger, tenor; Irina Varamsova, soprano; Holly Hunsberger, and Chris Streeter, bass; and the work will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. This musical offering to the St. Mary's Parish is made possible by the Claudia Harman Music Endowment Fund.

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** the Boys and Girls Choir traveled to New York City to sing with Christ Church, Alexandria, at

## 20'S & 30'S GROUP MINISTRY

### THE BRUNCH BUNCH

Join us for brunch on **Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>**! We will meet in the Paca Hall after the 11:15 service (around 12:30) and depart for a Cuatro de Mayo Fiesta!

### BARE BIBLE STUDY

Join Episcopalians in their 20s and 30s from the Northern VA region on **Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> from 8-9pm** 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 May 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 6-8pm. Kick back and enjoy food, drinks, and fellowship.

Location: Clarendon Grill at 1101 N. Highland Street.

St. James for their 9:15 a.m. Eucharist. The trip included site-seeing on Saturday and wonderful singing in this beautiful church on Sunday.

**Sunday, May 18 is Choir Recognition Sunday** for all St. Mary's Choirs and will include a Ribbon Ceremony for the Boys & Girls Choir. Their musical achievements will be rewarded with Royal School of Church Music ribbons at the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist. We will take the opportunity to pay tribute to and thank the fine musicians from the Parish Choir, the Treble, the Boys & Girls Choir and the Handbell Choir. We are also deeply appreciative of the parental support given to younger choir members. Each of the participants in the music program have attended weekly rehearsals and contributed to the beauty and purpose of holy worship throughout the 2007-2008 season. Please say a word of thanks to choir members whose names will be listed in the Sunday service leaflet.

The official close of the 2007-2008 Choir Season will be our **Choir Banquet, Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**, offered in gratitude for each member's dedicated service throughout the year.

Although regular weekday rehearsals for choirs conclude May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Parish Choir leads the 10:00 a.m. service throughout the summer months. **The Summer Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings only at 9:15 a.m. beginning on Sunday, June 15.** This is an excellent time to join your voice with the St. Mary's Choir. Give Gregory a call at 703-527-6800 for more information.

### ALL PARISH SHRINE MONT WEEKEND

Mark your calendars! **June 6-8, 2008!**

Join us for the All Parish Shrine Mont Retreat Weekend. Worship, fellowship, outdoors, mountains, family, yummy food, and the infamous variety show. If you're single, married, or have kids—all are welcome! We plan to have a "house" where 20s and 30s can stay together—let us know if you're interested.

### SISTERS AND SPIRITUALITY - TUESDAY MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>

Gather at 7:00 p.m. at Elizabeth Marie's house (4728 26<sup>th</sup> St. N; directly across from St. Mary's) for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship.

### WHITE WATER RAFTING

Would you be interested in a rafting trip this summer? If so, let us know via email!

Contact [elizabeth.marie@stmarysarlington.org](mailto: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

### Youth Art Show Coffee House Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm



Join us for performances, coffee, sweets and snacks. Following Vespers, we'll begin downstairs with a look at our Inaugural Youth Art Show, then we'll head upstairs for live art from our very talented youth. All are invited. Contact Mike or Mary Beth if you're performing!

### Youth Plant Sale

Don't forget the Youth Group's 2nd Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale. Plan your spring garden now! We have a wide variety of annuals, vegetables, herbs and hanging baskets. Order forms are available in the Parish Hall. **Orders must be received by Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.** If you have questions please contact Janet Tasker at 703-356-0605 or [jtasker@cox.net](mailto:jtasker@cox.net).

### Support our Youth in Mission

Our Youth are selling shares for the upcoming summer mission trips. You can support their mission experience by buying a share for \$10. The benefits of being a shareholder

are many including: a share holder certificate, an invitation to the share holder's dinner in August, a postcard from the site of the mission trip, and a great reason to pray for 8 days in June and July (to name a few). See one of the youth (the lists are posted on the Youth board and in the Parish Hall) in order to purchase a share. Or, see Mike if you would like to buy a group of shares that will be distributed between each mission participant.

### Mission Trip Updates

All forms, money, shares, and community service are due on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Also a mandatory meeting to prepare for the each of the upcoming trips will take place on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm in the Parish Hall.

### St. Mary's Youth Group at the Ballpark!



Washington National Game vs. Florida Marlins  
**Saturday, May 10 - 7:30 p.m.**

25 Tickets are available for \$18.00 each in the upper infield gallery. Join us!

## ST. MARY'S YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday, May 4th:	Youth Council @ The Diner - 12:30 p.m. Youth Art Show/Coffeehouse "Amazing Grace" - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 10th	Washington Nationals Baseball Game (see below for more details!) - 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 11th	No Youth Group (Mother's Day)
Wednesday, May 14th:	Jr. High Guys meet with Streeter @ Chesterbrook Starbucks - 7-8:00 p.m. Sr. High Women meet @ Brynna's - 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 18th:	11th & 12th Grade Guys meet with Father Merrow @ The Diner - 12:30 p.m. 9th & 10th Grades Guys meet with Joseph @ Chesterbrook Starbucks - 12:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group with Dinner - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 21st:	Pizza with a Purpose - 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 25th:	No Youth Group (Memorial Day)
Wednesday, May 28th:	Sr. High Women meet @ Rev. Jenn's - 7:00-8:30 p.m. Jr. High Girls meet with Mary Beth - 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 1st:	Youth Sunday Summer Mission Trip Meeting - 12:30 p.m.
June 5th - June 8th	All Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont (Sr. High will have own house)
Saturday, June 14	Sr. High End of Year Party @ The Wade's

## OUTREACH HAPPENINGS

### **Dios es muy, muy bueno!! An Update on ESL Classes at Iglesia Santa Maria**

It's said that if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. We hoped for a couple of volunteer teachers, we got 12. We hoped for at least six to twelve students, we got 60. And so, classes began on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and friends are being made, stories are being shared and much mutual learning is happening.

ESL Classes are held each Monday and Thursday evening at Santa Maria, through June 19<sup>th</sup>. **We are still in need of regular substitutes, so please be in touch with Mary Beth if you can help.** Great thanks to our teachers: Diane Wright, Margaret Boswell, Gail Benkert, Harriet Runkle, Carol Kurtz, Kate Muth, Stan Houle and Elizabeth Adams, our friends from St. George's, Arlington, Kathie Panfil, Charo Davis, Nancy McCracken and Cheryl Hughes, and our friends at Santa Maria, Fr. Roberto, Carlos Caro and Maggie Maranon.

### **AFAC's Fresh Produce Programs Seek Support**

Once again, St. Mary's is participating in the Arlington Food Assistance Center's Plant-a-Row-for-the-Hungry program as a drop off point for garden produce. At the end of May, we will be placing bins at the Glebe Road and Old Dominion Drive entrances where parishioners and local gardeners can leave surplus produce on Sundays for AFAC to pick up on Monday morning. Last year, AFAC received thousands of pounds of fresh produce through a three-pronged approach that involved local home and community gardeners, donations from farm markets, and

gleaning with Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network.

Volunteer opportunities abound--from gardening to helping collect produce from farm markets to spending a morning gleaning. Look for the sign-up sheets for gleaning with MAGNET and information on the Plant-a-Row program in the Poca Parish Hall. AFAC also needs volunteers to help with publicity, distribute brochures, and to drop off and pick up coolers at the Courthouse and Columbia Pike farmers' markets for vegetable donations. Contact Puwen Lee at AFAC ([afacpuwen@aol.com](mailto:afacpuwen@aol.com) or 703/845-8486) if you can help. Join the plot against hunger!

### **Outreach Mini-Retreat Saturday Morning - May 10**

The Rev. Jim Melson will lead us in a study of Peter & Cornelius from the Book of Acts at New Communities Church in Shaw, D.C. Ben's Chili Bowl just might be involved, too... [Marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:Marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org) for more information.

### **John Bul Dau Foundation**

Join the Arlington County Educational Community in a Special Benefit Event for The John Bul Dau Foundation on **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** at the NRECA, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington.

John Dau, former "lost boy" is the author of "God Grew Tired Of Us," and is working toward building medical clinics and schools in Southern Sudan.

For more information, contact **Peggy Brennan** [pbrennan444@yahoo.com](mailto:pbrennan444@yahoo.com).

### **Outreach Camp "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 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**"ONE" Week Outreach Camp is this August 25<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>** – 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](mailto:Marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org)

### **Gleaning Opportunities**

Stemming from Hebrew tradition, gleaning is the act of harvesting crops which are left after a field has been commercially harvested. Several farms in our area make such crops available—all we have to do is show up and pick them!

We are in the process of setting up three gleaning opportunities - two for the summer and one for the fall. Sign-up sheets and details will be made available as soon as possible. When they are, please prayerfully consider joining us for one of these rewarding Saturday mornings.

# St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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## Saint Mary's Episcopal Church The Diocese of Virginia

703.527.6800; fax 703.527.6853  
office@stmarysarlington.org

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

### 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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