



SENTINEL

From Our Organist and Choirmaster

St. John's Chancel Pipe Organ Replacement Project and Presentation

One of the reasons our Rector and Vestry invited me to accept the position of Organist and Choirmaster was my knowledge and familiarity with outstanding pipe organs. Having lived with the St. John's organ for six months now, I have had ample opportunity to understand its strengths and weaknesses and to experience how it functions with the congregation and choir. Please bear with me for an explanation of the need for and value of a new pipe organ.

As all of you know, the choir had been located in the rear gallery and accompanied by an electronic organ for many years. The chancel choir stalls in the front of the church were vacant and the pipe organ both under-utilized and in a state of decline. Discussions with the Rector, Wardens and Vestry, and many parishioners reinforced my judgment that this was not a satisfactory situation and that moving the choir back to the chancel was a priority. We needed to worship together as a com-

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The Georgetown House Tour

Saturday, 24 April

11 am to 5 pm

Afternoon Tea ~ 2 to 5 pm

**Tickets & information at
www.Georgetownhousetour.com**

**Sponsored by Saint John's Episcopal Church ~ Georgetown Parish
3240 O Street NW, Washington DC ~ 202-338-1796
www.stjohnsgeorgetown.org**



Church Mouse Chit-Chat...

Easter Day at Saint John's



"The Littlest Donkey"

On Sunday, April 11, 2010, the children of the Sunday School performed the play, "The Littlest Donkey", for their families and friends. The story is about the donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Photos by Avery Miller



April Birthdays

Jane Belenky Smith, Wayne Boyles, Lucas Brabant, Charlie Cameron, James Cartwright, Caitlin Duffy, Alexandra Elgin, Stephanie Hood, John Jenkins, Kathleen Pryor, William Raymond, Simon Wong



Simon Wong

Upcoming Events

Easter Bible Study Tough Calls in the Old Testament

**WEDNESDAYS ~ April 14, April 21 & April 28
7 p.m. the Chapel of the Carpenter**

Our seminarian Matthew Kozlowski will be leading a three-part Bible study. The study will explore three classic Old Testament texts: Ruth, Jonah, and Esther. What do these books have in common? 1) They are all short! 2) They all describe characters who receive “tough calls” or have to make “tough calls.”

All sessions will begin at 7 p.m. and end promptly at 8 with Compline. A light dinner will be provided before each session and parking is available at Hyde-Addison School.

Save the date: PAC Night

Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Parish Action Committees (PAC) are one of the ways you can volunteer to serve Saint John’s. Parishioners and friends gather in Blake Hall to share a supper. After dinner we join the various committees headed by a Vestry member. There will be sign up sheets in Blake Hall for you to join the PAC group that best suits your interest. The evening ends with Compline in the church. Child care and parking will be available. Contact the Parish Office at 202-338-1796 if you are available to help with preparing the meal.

A Thank You Note...

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the former vestry and the people of St. John’s for the wonderful gift I received at the annual meeting in March. Serving on the vestry was a very rewarding experience. It was exciting to observe and sustain all that defines our community at St. John’s including our outstanding spirit of volunteerism, our strong sense of mission, and most importantly our committed focus on worship.

I feel confident that our new vestry and its wardens will work well together as St. John’s moves ahead into this challenging, yet inspirational, era. I look forward to working with them in support of their endeavors. Once again, thank you all for your incredible generosity.

Sincerely,
Margaret Huckaby

Sunday Adult Forum

10 a.m. in the Chapel of the Carpenter

April 18

Dualism, Donatism, and Saint Augustine

The Rev. Dr. Ronald P. Conner

April 25

Messalianism, Pelagianism, and the American Ethos

The Rev. Dr. Ronald P. Conner

May 2

Sabellianism, Adoptionism, and Trinity

The Rev. Dr. Ronald P. Conner

May 9

Music at Saint John’s

Samuel J. Carabetta

May 16

Incarnationalism: The Anglican Heresy?

The Rev. Dr. Ronald P. Conner

May 23

Saint Gregory Palamas

The Rev. Dr. Ronald P. Conner

May 30

Memorial Day Weekend

No Forum

June 6

Parish Picnic

One service at 10 a.m.

No Forum

The Georgetown House Tour

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Join us as a volunteer for the 2010 Georgetown House Tour

The House Tour will be held on Saturday, April 24, and lots of help is needed between now and then to make the House Tour successful. While most of the help is needed the week/day of the House Tour there are some responsibilities prior to that week. Below is a list of the volunteer opportunities:

Tea Preparation - Making sandwiches for the tea. Usually this is done the evenings and days leading up to the day of the House Tour.

Cookie Baking – We need dozens and dozens of cookies baked at home and brought to the church on Friday or Saturday morning.

Tea Service - Serving tea to the guests who attend the tour.
First Shift (1 - 3 pm); Second Shift (3 - 5 pm)

Ticket Sales - Friday ticket sales and “will-call” ticket distribution.
First Shift (11 am - 2 pm); Second Shift (2 pm - 5:30 pm)

Ticket Sales - Saturday ticket sales and “will-call” ticket distribution.
First Shift (9 am - 1 pm); Second Shift (2 pm - 5:30 pm)

Docents - Tour guides in various homes on the tour.
First Shift (10:30 am - 2 pm); Second Shift (2 pm - 5:30 pm)

Miscellaneous/Administrative Duties – helping to deliver chairs & tables to each of the homes the morning of the tour; parking (day of); traffic control; church tours (day of); miscellaneous issues on the day of the House Tour.

Sign-up sheets are in Blake Hall
Questions? Contact Stephen Ziobro
202-468-1194 or sziobro@sfcg.org



From our Organist and Choirmaster, *Samuel Carabetta*

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munity with the clergy, choir, and congregation united once again. This has been successful in many ways. Not so with the pipe organ.

When I first played the instrument, I was dismayed to find it had numerous problems including unsteady winding, dead notes on

individual registers, mechanical unreliability, and noisy action. The organ console even had stop knobs that had broken off and replaced with pencils!

The fact that the organ gives an appearance of normality is a great credit to our organ technician, Bard Wickkiser, who tunes and maintains it. Unfortunately, much of his time is spent patching and fixing: the equivalent of repairing a decaying house with duct tape. The fact is that St. John's pipe organ is in a stage of crisis management. Significant elements of the instrument can no longer function without complete rebuilding; a great expense the church took on previously.

Continuing with an instrument sinking further into dysfunction is not prudent policy liturgically, artistically, or fiscally.

Dozens of stops go unused every week because of their unsuitability to our music program. The choir is accompanied with a limited palette of registers so that the organ's restrictions are not as apparent to parishioners in the pews. We have had to make drastic spur-of-the moment decisions to deal with the organ's uncertain state. We have had to remove pipes that ciphred during services. Once, the problem was so severe that I had to shut down the pipe organ and retreat to the electronic organ in the gallery.

Some of you have said to me recently: "Why do we need a new organ, you make this one sound so exciting!" All modesty aside, the existing instrument can produce some exciting sounds when played "full throttle" (as my organist colleagues would put it). However, when we analyze its component parts in their current condition, we hear mostly shrill, high-pitched registers along with a deep bass rumbling underneath that is out of synch with the rest of the instrument. We hear bright trumpets, but surprisingly little of the rich fundamental sound of a really good pipe organ. In many parts of the church, and particularly in the rear of the nave, the effect is a muddled sound, lacking blend and integration, buried, and unclear. This is not what we need for support and inspiration throughout the depth and breadth of our worship.

The Saint John's pipe organ needs:

1 Better placement of the pipes, which will add greater clarity, cohesion of sound, and superior accompaniment for hymns and congregational singing. The correct placement also will help the choir hear the organ better across the chancel.

2 More tonal flexibility, with more stops "under expression" — i.e., creating crescendos and diminuendos by utilizing the swell shades or shutters. The existing organ has four divisions spread out over three keyboards, yet only one that works, the Swell division, is under expression. This is critical to providing the best accompaniment to the choral repertoire of our tradition.

3 For much of our choral repertoire, solo "orchestral" stops are appropriate in the accompaniments. At the moment there is no French or English Horn, Clarinet, Tuba, or other stops typically found in a first-rate pipe organ. We miss these distinctive and colorful voices.

4 The organ console is totally unreliable. The combination action (how the stops and sounds are controlled) is out of date and unpredictable.

I have been fortunate in being able to play many wonderful pipe organs around the country, in the process gaining some experience of what makes them truly wonderful: their musicality, responsiveness, reliability, and tonal splendor. The instrument we have now is sub-standard. During my few months at St John's, I have seen the consistent striving for excellence in all that we do here in our liturgy. While the existing organ can produce some exciting sounds at loud volume, in almost every other respect it is disappointing.

St. John's should have a jewel of an instrument that is dynamic, colorful and musical at every level; that will lead hymns without forcing; that is a visual joy to behold; and is a deeply satisfying instrument thanks to a broad spectrum of tonal colors. Our new organ should reflect the highest standards of craftsmanship and tonal artistry, not only suited to our musical requirements but equal in quality to the rest of this beautiful space: its architecture, acoustics, beautifully carved reredos, stained glass windows, liturgy, mission, and service to the community.

At our Annual Meeting, James Warren, organ committee chair, explained the process of choosing the new pipe organ. This was also presented to and affirmed by the Vestry at its February meeting.

Our new pipe organ will be built by Casavant Frères, St. Hyacinth, Quebec. On Sunday, April 11, after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services, Simon Couture from Casavant will present the vision that the Pipe Organ Committee and Wardens and Vestry have brought to this project. I hope you will join us in the nave for this special presentation.

As custodians of this splendid musical tradition at St. John's, it is now up to you to bring the project to fruition. I know we will find the resources and commitment to ensure that future generations of worshippers will have their experience enhanced by an instrument worthy of our community and its musical heritage.

Lay Participants' Schedule

If there is a conflict, you are asked to find a replacement and notify Liturgical Associate, Jane Volkema at 202-338-1796.

Ushers/Greeters ~ 9am

Apr 18 Landis & Arnita Jones
Apr 25 Kate Tabor & Wilbur Wright
May 2 Mike & Cathy Applin
May 9 Landis & Arnita Jones
May 16 Kate Tabor & Wilbur Wright

Acolytes ~ 9 am

Apr 18 Max Panker, Aves Mocek, Bunny Cameron
Apr 25 Charlie Cameron, Hadley Flanagan, Jasper Flanagan
May 2 Christian Osborne, Antonia Kristinus, Leopold Kristinus
May 9 Stephanie Hood, Emma Sutherland, Jasper Flanagan
May 16 Charlie Cameron, Max Panker,
Aves Mocek

Minister of the Word ~ 9am

Apr 18 Suzon Cameron
Apr 25 John Duffy
May 2 George Stutteville
May 9 Jocelyn Dyer
May 16 Avery Miller

Ushers/Greeters ~ 11am

Apr 18 Sandra & Harry Wilbur
Apr 25 Carol Cameron & John Wise
May 2 John Dussault & Susan Sanders
May 9 Phyllis Meginley & Laura Ivey
May 16 Tim & Mary Jane Bennett

Crucifer ~ 11 am

Apr 18 Allison Nichols
Apr 25 Joan Maxwell
May 2 John Wise
May 9 John Van Wagoner
May 16 Kevin Eckstrom

Minister of the Word ~ 11 am

Apr 18 James Warren
Apr 25 Harry Wilbur
May 2 Joan Maxwell
May 9 Carol Cameron
May 16 Grant Montgomery

Intercessor ~ 11 am

Apr 18 Dianne Ferro
Apr 25 Morning Prayer, no intercessor
May 2 James Warren
May 9 Joan Maxwell
May 16 Tim Mesarch

Saint John's Parish Staff

Lorenzo Aliaga, *Sexton/Special Events*
Kimberly Bates, *Receptionist*
Kimm@stjohnsgeorgetown.org
Samuel Carabetta, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Sam@stjohnsgeorgetown.org
Christine Deeley-Wood, *Christian Youth Formation*
Kevin O'Neil, *Property Manager*
Kevin@stjohnsgeorgetown.org
Jesús Reyes, *Sexton/Housekeeper*
Lidia Ruis, *Sexton*
Jane Volkema, *Parish & Liturgical Associate*
Jane@stjohnsgeorgetown.org

Parish Clergy - 202-338-3294

The Rev. Dr. Albert Scariato, *Rector*
FatherAlbert@stjohnsgeorgetown.org
The Rev. Sarah Duggin, *Adjunct Clergy*
Matthew Kozlowski, *Seminarian*
MKozlowski@vts.edu.org

Saint John's Vestry

Officers & Assignment

Trisha Parson ~ *Senior Warden*
Merle Thorpe ~ *Junior Warden*
Laura Rodman ~ *Treasurer*
Kevin Eckstrom ~ *Register*
Jaimie Hoops
Jim Johnson
Landis Jones
Sharon Lockwood
Liza Lowe
Peter Morici
Joyce Schneider
Julie VanSteenwyk
David Wolf
Next Vestry meeting:
Monday, May 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Worship Services

Sundays

9:00 am ~
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00 am ~
Christian Education for all ages
11:00 am ~
Holy Eucharist

Nursery is available 8:50 a.m. to Noon. On the last Sunday of each month, the 11 a.m. service is Morning Prayer Rite I with Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Wednesdays

5:30 pm ~
Holy Eucharist & Centering Prayer

This Year's Patrons' Party House has a history with Saint John's Church

1405 34th Street NW

The Windsor house dates back to about 1815, with many of Georgetown's outstanding citizens as occupants over these past two hundred years.

The previous owner most know to us would be The Ambassador David K.E., Bruce, and his wife, Evangeline Bruce, who lived there before serving as envoy to France, Germany, Great Britain and NATO. His long and distinguished career as a diplomat was back in the days when serving our government was considered the highest form of service to one's country. Their entertaining made this house a highpoint on Washington's social scene, and a ballroom was added in the 1970s, which looked out onto to the garden designed by Rose Greeley in 1955.

After the death of the Bruces — Evangeleine's crowded funeral service held here at Saint John's in 1995 — the house was bought by a young couple, Clara Bingham and David Michaelis, who found the ballroom more useful as a playroom for thier children.

But let's go back to the beginning... Clement Smith, of famous Smith's Row, built the house almost two hundred years ago. it was first occupied from 1818 to 1850 by William Ridgely, known for heading the restoration of a derelict Saint John's Church in 1838. The house was then occupied by Dr. Edwin Linthicum, a noted philanthropist, whose brother owned the famous Linthicum Mansion, now known as Dumbarton Oaks.

Just prior to the Civil War, Col. McHenry Hollingsworth of the Potomac Light Infantry and superintendent of Mount Vernon, lived in the house for

two years and ran a boat between Washington and Mount Vernon. During the war, soldiers chose 34th Street as a barracks and camped there until ordered to the front. It is said that almost every evening the band played martial music in the rear garden—this must have been a picturesque sight.

In 1867, following the war, Joseph G. Waters, a wealthy building contractor and bank president, purchased the house from, the Ridgely estate and lived there until his death in 1910. Joseph Waters was a long-time member of St. John's and chairman of its building committee. A stained-glass memorial window to him may be seen in the church nave.

So when you come to the Patrons' Party on April 22nd, think back on all this fascinating history.

For information on attending the Georgetown House Tour Patrons' Party, contact the parish office at 202-338-1796 or Frida Burling at 292-337-1339.

Thank you to Saint John's parishioners Frida Burling and Sara Revis, and homeowners Mr. and Mrs. Deborah and Curtin Winsor for contributing to this article



New staff member

Saint John's welcomes Kevin O'Neill as our new property manager. Kevin will be at the church about 15 hours a week helping with repairs, cleaning and yard work. Many of you may recognize Kevin, he has helped with cooking at PAC nights and is chair of this year's Georgetown House Tour Tea. Kevin's first big task as property manager will be overseeing the repairs to the atrium door caused by the ice damage from this winter's snow storms.

You can reach Kevin at 202-338-1796 or Kevin@stjohnsgeorgetown.org.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has the privilege of preparing the altar for any service held in the church. The members are also responsible for cleaning the altars and caring for the sacred vessels. Membership in the Altar Guild is open to men and women of any age.

We are particularly in need of someone to take over as chair of the Altar Guild, this would include making sure the appropriate altar hangings and other paraments are changed depending on the church calendar, as well as keeping the sacristy in order. Contact Jane Volkema if you can help: 202-338-1796.

The Sentinel Online

In an effort to save over \$5,000 in office expenses annually — and to be kind to our environment — beginning with the September 2010 issue, the *Sentinel* will be mailed to only those who request it. Otherwise you can read the *Sentinel* online through the parish website.

An all-parish email will be sent to let you know when a new issue of the *Sentinel* has been posted to the website.

If you would like to continue to receive the *Sentinel* by US mail, please make your request to Kimm no later than August 15. You can contact Kimm at 202-338-1796 or email her at Kimm@stjohnsgeorgetown.org.

Be kind to our environment

read the *Sentinel* online at ww.stjohnsgeorgetown.org

Saint John's Church ~ Georgetown Parish
3240 O Street NW
Washington, DC 20007



*Deadline for the May 2010 Sentinel
will be April 23rd.*