

CLASS OF 2011—THE LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS AND WITH THE LONGEST HISTORY

by Cynthia Barry

Father Pierre-Henry Buisson called for the graduation to begin. It was 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 7, 2011. In the sanctuary, the middle school students, the families, friends, teachers, and trustees of the Class of 2011 had assembled. They were all chatting excitedly among themselves. Father Pierre said good-naturedly, "I have a French accent, so you need to pay attention." The room hushed, and the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2011 began.

The first notes of Hummel's "Fantasie" sounded out through the room, as graduate-to-be Thomas Chafe played his viola. Tommy will study at the Baltimore School for the Arts in the fall, one of the leading pre-professional arts high schools in the country.

The Middle School Chorus assembled, under the direction of Dr. James Walton. They sang "Imagine" by John Lennon, striking the perfect theme for the young graduates. The Middle School Chorus contains 8th graders, supported in voice by their fellow middle schoolers, now rising through the grades. The graduating boys looked handsome in their dark jackets and boutonnieres, the graduating girls so graceful and lovely in their white dresses.

The audience sang "Amazing Grace," one of the world's most beautiful hymns, introduced by William Fung on the tenor sax. As I sat next to Ellen Stanton, the second-grade teacher, she said to me, "I had these guys in Kindergarten and again in second grade. They're very special to me."

The first reading was from 1 Corinthians, which concluded with the words, "Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love." The three readers of the passage were Virginia Ritinski, Erin Morsheimer, and Casey Glick.

Andy Smith, math and health teacher, gave the homily. He emphasized the meaning of First Corinthians, the first eight stanzas of which he had the 8th graders memorize. He said, "I'm thankful for the gift of teaching you.... My call today is to be present, to enjoy each chapter [of life]."



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Sarah Zachares read the second reading, from 1 John. Charlotte Kurtz then spoke of her trip to Haiti, to our sister school, La Resurrection (with seventh-grader Ginger Ellis) in March. She announced that the collection would go toward the repair of La Resurrection's water system, so that the students and staff can have clean, fresh drinking water, which they share with the people living nearby. The collection was taken up to the accompaniment of the Handchime Choir, which rang the Shaker melody, "Simple Gifts." The acoustics in the sanctuary were perfect for the handchimes, and the ringing seemed to cast a spell over the congregation.

Head of School Sharon Holsclaw addressed the graduates, saying, "Each of you is a child of God." She then spoke of the things that distinguished the Class of 2011—their grace and beauty in all that they do; their participation in sports; their accomplishment in music, which brought home a trophy for the school in interstate competition; their contribution to the school by serving as buddies to the second-graders to encourage math and reading skills; their help with our school's outreach service to the homeless; and their support to our sister school in Haiti. Sharon noted that this class is not only the largest graduating class we've had, with 20 graduates, but also the one with members who have the longest history at our school: Marguerite Matta and Erin Morsheimer, twelve years; William Fung, David Howson, Jack Kunowsky, and Charlotte Kurtz, eleven years; and Morgan Kranz, a decade.

"What will it take for you young people to achieve success in today's world?" Sharon asked. She suggested that are four components, in the following order: (1) a great work ethic; (2) the ability to get along with others; (3) having a skill that is marketable; and (4) a college education. She summed it up as GRIT—Getting along with other; Responsibility; Integrity; and Tenacity. She gave each graduate a memorial card.

Morgan Kranz and Marguerite Matta gave the student speeches. Both Morgan and Marguerite struck a nostalgic but hopeful tone in their remarks. Morgan said, "I've been at St. Martin's pretty much my whole life....St. Martin's has been my second home." She thanked all of her teachers, since preschool, by name. It was quite a roster. It does take a village.

Marguerite said, "This is our last day at St. Martin's"—and you could feel the parental sadness in the room—"but our first day to new adventure and a new path." And at that turn in direction, you could also feel the youthful energy and hopefulness. Marguerite remembered in particular her first grade outdoors study of the Chesapeake Bay.

The moment of graduation arrived. This is the moment in time with 8th graders officially graduate and become rising high school freshmen. Head of Middle School Anne Andrews called out in a clear voice each student's name. Each one in turn crossed the stage to receive their diploma from Sharon Holsclaw, President of the Board of Trustees Frank Hilton, and the Rev. Doris Buchanan Johnson, rector.

Anne Andrews said, "May I present the graduating class of 2011." The room burst into applause and stood. David Howson presented the class gift, a new sign at the carpool line Ginny Ready, 8th grade homeroom and science teacher, noted that this class entered middle school the same year she came to St. Martin's, so they have come through the years together.

Acolytes were Emily Michel, bearing the crucifix; Madeleine Farnham, torch; Cassandra Zachares, torch; Jack Kunowsky, streamers; and Griffin Wild, banner.

The slide show of the Class of 2010 capped the ceremony. Administrative Assistant and staff photographer Tiffany Mathews compiled the slide show and created the soundtrack. Showing the young graduates as they grew, the slides were enlivened with humor and elicited many ohhhhhhh-sounds. We traveled through time back to when our 8th graders were babies with personality plus, to when they were studious school children, to when on their 8th grade trip they were so covered in mud as to be almost unrecognizable. The slide show charmed the graduates and their families.

A reception followed in the Parish Hall and the newly minted graduates and their families socialized and promised to reunite and to never forget St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School and the chapter it wrote in their lives.

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD COMMUNITY WISHES RETIRING HEAD OF SCHOOL SHARON HOLSCLAW A FOND FAREWELL



The children came down the center aisle of the church singing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" as well-wishers filled the pews for the retirement reception for Head of School Sharon Holsclaw on Sunday, June 5. The preschool through elementary school children raised their voices in song, as Sharon has taught them.

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson gave the welcome and blessing, looking out over the sanctuary filled with familiar faces and faces from the past. Many people, past and present, gathered together to say thank-you to Sharon who, in 15 years as head and with a total of 25 years of service to St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School, has touched their lives.

Frank Hilton, President of the Board of Trustees, acted as master of ceremonies, welcoming the vestry, parish, school, parents, grandparents, faculty and staff of St. Martin's. He recounted how he first came to the school in 2004 on Grandparents' Day to accompany his grandson, Jack. Someone said, "There's Sharon Holsclaw." When he drove his grandson to school, he noticed that Sharon always had a big smile as she welcomed kids out of their cars and into their school days.

Frank said that Sharon is the head cheerleader. She's responsible for recruiting and hiring the faculty. She is also a meteorologist, trying to predict ahead of the county school administration whether to call a snow day. He thanked Sharon for leading the school as it grew from a preschool to an elementary school and to a middle school. In 2011, St. Martin's-in-the-Field is graduating its fifth 8th-grade class.

Two St. Martin's-in-the-Field alumni then gave brief tributes to Sharon. Sarah Morsheimer, a rising senior at Archbishop Spalding High School, said that when she entered St. Martin's nursery at age 3 in 1997, little did she know what the school would come to mean to her. She drew laughter from the audience when she said she'll always remember Sharon's Snow White costume in the Halloween parade and said she still knows by heart all the songs she learned at St. Martin's under Sharon's tutelage. "Mrs. Holsclaw was always there, whether it was fall festival, the homeless dinner, or a sports game," Sarah said.

Alex Flynn, a rising sophomore at the Key School, spoke next. He was not a "lifer" like Sarah. He came to St. Martin's-in-the-Field at 6th grade, but those two years were so important to him in his education and the place where he came to feel special and cherished. He said, "Mrs. Holsclaw always knew our names....Thank you for all you have done, Mrs. Holsclaw." Building on his spiritual education at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, Alex has established the first Christian youth club at Key School.

House of Delegates representative from Severna Park, Cathleen Vitale, presented a special certificate to Sharon from the Maryland General Assembly in recognition of "25 years of visionary excellence." She said that more than 2,000 students and families have been affected by Sharon during her tenure and that Sharon transmitted a sense of the importance of community and service. "I can't imagine coming here and not seeing you," said Cathy Vitale.

Nancy Fitzgerald, former Parents' Association president and a St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School parent, present the gift to Sharon—a necklace with 25 diamonds, representing her 25 years at the school.



Sharon took the lectern, dabbing her eyes. She thanked people she worked with over the years, particularly Nancy Bishop, "my partner in Kindergarten." Sharon and Nancy started out a quarter of a century ago as co-teachers in the Kindergarten. Sharon thanked the faculty and staff, the board, parents and students for her blessed years. Sharon's words were received with applause.

The Rev. Doris Buchanan Johnson brought the ceremony to a close with a prayer of thanksgiving she chose particularly for this occasion, to express thanks for Sharon's part in instilling a love of God in children. "We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side," were some words from the prayer. She then extended an invitation to everyone to retire to the Parish Hall, where refreshments in the form of cake and punch and conversation awaited.

Annual Fund Update

Thank you so much to faculty, staff, board members, parents, and friends of St. Martin's who gave through April 30, 2011.

<i>Anonymous (4)</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. William Feldmaier</i>	<i>Mrs. Kristy Pfeiffer</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. George Acree</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Michael Phillips</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Donald Allen</i>	<i>Mrs. Carol Fritz</i>	<i>Mr. Robert Reiter</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Ellen Allen</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Po Fung</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. John Riganati</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Anagnos</i>	<i>Mrs. Carol Fritz</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roesle</i>
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<i>Ms. Cindy Barry</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Frances Hilton</i>	<i>Mrs. Stephanie Santos-Songer</i>
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<i>Mr. and Mrs. Paul Feinberg</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Todd Petrocelli</i>	

**Thank
you.**

PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASS HELPS NEW ZEALAND QUAKE VICTIMS

Parent Rachel Blackwood, mother of Jodie in Mrs. Wollentin and Mrs. Klossner's Pre-K class, thanks everyone for their donations that were collected for the New Zealand Red Cross to support the victims of the earthquake in that country. All told, St. Martin's -in-the-Field Day School students collected \$NZ270—a successful and caring effort! The class raised money by asking students throughout the school to bring in "Coins for the Quake." The Blackwood family moved to Severna Park from New Zealand almost two years ago. (Their son was in the same class last year.) Half their extended family lives in Christchurch, where the earthquake struck most destructively, and their aunt and uncle lost their home in the quake. Luckily, their family suffered no loss of life, but knew many people who had lost loved ones.



"Many of our friends and family in New Zealand asked that I pass on their appreciation for both the kind gesture and the funds raised," said Rachel. "Kia Ora, St Martins in the Field Day School"--("Thank you" in Maori).

HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNE ANDREWS RECEIVES DOCTORATE

Anne Andrews, Head of Middle School, received her Doctor of Ministry in Educational Leadership from the Virginia Theological Seminary on May 19. Exemplifying a St. Martin's-in-the-Field value of lifelong learning, Dr. Andrews pursued her degree over the course of four years, beginning in the summer of 2007. Her thesis was entitled, "Elevating Student Voice through Listening and Dialogue." The title of her thesis reflects another St. Martin's educational value—listening to others and engaging in meaningful civil discourse in order to put into action methods and goals.

Congratulations, Dr. Andrews!



Dr. Andrews holds her doctorate diploma with her family (*left to right*) daughter-in-law Alyssa and son Blair Andrews and husband Allan.



Preschool Closing Chapel



Mrs. Pfeiffer



Mrs. Klossner

The Preschool classes closed the school year with a heartwarming Chapel program.



Have a wonderful summer!



St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School Elementary

PRESENTS

The Jungle Book



Have a wonderful summer!



One World, Many Stories



Explore the world of books this summer
at the Anne Arundel County Public Library

Kids entering grade 12 and younger are invited
to stop by their local library this summer and join the

2011 SUMMER READING CLUB!

Sign up anytime, at any branch, beginning June 6.

Club-related programs and activities begin on June 20 and run through July 30.*

"BOOKS! THE MAGIC IS REAL!" with Magician Joe Romano

"THINGS THAT GO BOOM!" with Mad Science of Central Maryland

"ONE WORLD, MANY STORYSONGS!" with Kidsinger Jim

"GO GREEN!" with Pam & Rascal

Plus Rock Out with ROCKNOCEROS at the Outdoor Family Concerts!!

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS*:


CREATIVE CARTOONING WORKSHOPS with Blue Sky Puppet Theatre's Michael Cotter
And teens who "LIKE" the Anne Arundel County Public Library Teen FACEBOOK page
by midnight on July 2 are eligible to win an iPod Touch!



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS, TOO!*

All public and private schools that achieve 25 percent participation or higher in the Summer Reading Club
have a chance to win the Chesapeake Cup!

* For a schedule of events, locations and a description of all programs, check out LibraryHappenings! or go to www.aacpl.net.

 Anne Arundel County Public Library
www.aacpl.net • 410.222.7371