Let’s Come Together, Talk and Learn

By Noreen Kirk

Over the coming weeks, the people of St. Mary’s will have several opportunities to come together for conversation about our shared future. Please plan to gather with your fellow parishioners and invited guests to learn what others have experienced and exchange ideas about how our faith community can move forward.

Sunday, June 30, 9 am—Fifth Sunday

We’ll have a single, combined service (with abbreviated music) at 9 am. This will be followed by a light brunch in Anderson Hall, a financial update and honest, open conversation with each other about St. Mary’s future.

Monday, July 1, 6:30 pm—The Rev. Erik Karas

We’ll share a light supper and then have a conversation with Erik Karas, rector and pastor of Christ Trinity Church in Sheffield, Massachusetts. Christ Trinity was formed when two congregations—one Episcopal and one Lutheran—came together to form a single faith community. The Rev. Karas and lay members of Christ Trinity came to speak with our Vestry and Concordia’s Council this past spring, and their stories were engaging and inspiring. Please come and bring with you any questions you may have, along with an open heart and an open mind. Please RSVP to the church office to let us know whether you plan to attend.

Sunday, July 7, both services—Guest preacher and visitor the Rev. Canon Timothy Hodapp

Tim Hodapp is Canon for Mission Collaboration with our diocese, the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. He will preach at both the 7:30 am and 9 am services and lead a discussion in Anderson Hall at roughly 10:30 am. Tim is working with Episcopal churches across the state that are dealing with issues similar to St. Mary’s. He will share with us how some Episcopal congregations have drawn on faith, creativity and boldness to move into the next phase of their lives.

You have questions. We’ll answer them.

See the article about FAQs on p. 7

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Finance Committee Monthly Update

By Joy Dorin, Assistant Treasurer

Financial Summary – Operating Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prior Month-March</th>
<th>Current Month-April</th>
<th>Year-to-Date (4 months, 33% of the year)</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
<th>Year-to-Date % of Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$23,034</td>
<td>$36,912</td>
<td>$123,483</td>
<td>$306,840</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$26,508</td>
<td>$35,831</td>
<td>$129,913</td>
<td>$378,055</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
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<td><strong>Net Gain (Loss)</strong></td>
<td>($3,474)</td>
<td>$1,081</td>
<td>($6,430)</td>
<td>($71,215)</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In comparison to March’s results:

Both income and expenses increased in April. The increase in income is attributable to a combination of the Easter offering, the deposit of Sunday, March 31st’s offering in early April and the transfer of the 2018 Christmas in New England proceeds to the operating account. The increase in expenses is the result of the decision to resume payment of the diocesan common ministry obligation ($2,932) and a hefty snow removal bill for the entire winter season (over $4,000). Net result for the month was surplus of just over $1,000.

Year-to-date, the operating budget is running a deficit of $6,430.

Episcopal Church Women Annual Meeting

The 138th Annual Meeting of Episcopal Church Women was held on May 2 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, Connecticut. Among those attending from St. Mary’s were, from left, Nancy Sampson, Eileen Christensen, Donna Indomenico and Deacon Emeritus Karen Fedorchak. Rector Ann Lovejoy Johnson also attended—and took this photo.
Together, Finding Unity in Christ

By the Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson, Rector

Dear God’s Beloved,

Our recent opportunities for conversation at St. Mary’s have been very important. It is holy work to listen deeply to one another. While sometimes it’s basic information we seek or burning questions we want to ask, other times, I sense there is more. That is, a great love generates from being together, attentive to one another, and caring about where someone is coming from. Often this is much harder to do then we would like to admit to ourselves. Putting aside our individual desires and recognizing our painful longing for the church of the past that we loved, is hard to do. Letting go of the past is difficult.

Many things have come up in our conversations. One is the opportunity for clarity. As we navigate major changes — changes that may feel earth-shaking — we may come to better understand ourselves and have clarity about what matters to us. This clarity happens for us as individuals and as a community. One important clarity that has arisen for me is reaffirming my commitment to racial justice and reconciliation. This is at the heart of the restoration that God desires for us, to recognize how diminished we are when we do not confront injustice.

It’s evident that our community has experienced this clarity, too, as numerous people from St. Mary’s, Concordia and Emmanuel, as well as unaffiliated local residents, have taken part in the antiracism initiatives we have offered. And of course our own diocese, the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, has committed to this by declaring this year and next a Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. I am clear that God is calling us to further this work — the work of learning, of collaboration, and of discerning how, in our greater Manchester community, we can be part of positive changes that benefit all people.

The hard work we are doing as a community right now, having brave and uncomfortable conversations, is preparing us for the new life God desires for us and preparing us for the work of God’s justice in the world.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Ann

All Are Invited to Sunday Forum

Upcoming dates: June 9 and June 23
Time: 10:15 am
Location: St. Mary’s Guild Room

New book study: The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage by Joan Chittister, a beloved nun and social activist

“A soul-stirring guide ... Sister Joan offers a compelling vision for readers to combat complacency and to propel ourselves toward creating a world of justice, freedom, peace, and empowerment.”
McElraevy Concert Draws a Crowd

By Noreen Kirk

The 20th anniversary concert of the Richard J. McElraevy Memorial Concert Series was held at St. Mary’s on Saturday, May 18, at 7 pm. The concert, which featured internationally acclaimed pianist Paul Bisaccia, drew a crowd of approximately 120 people from Manchester and surrounding communities. The performance was well-received, with Bisaccia receiving a standing ovation and performing an encore. Bisaccia and the majority of audience members stayed for the festive reception organized by Ruth McElraevy and her committee. It was a wonderful evening for concertgoers and a great way to welcome the community into St. Mary’s.
Reimagined May Fair a Success

By Valerie Huestis

First, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed their time, talent and treasure to this year’s May Fair. Your hard work, dedication and “let’s get it done” spirit of cooperation were important factors in making this year’s fair a success. As always, the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 27 is greatly appreciated, and we owe them a hearty “thank you” for all their support. Words cannot completely convey our thankfulness for everyone’s contributions and words of encouragement and support.

A Fresh Approach

This year the fair was completely reimagined, and significant changes were implemented to reduce the demands on volunteers. Rather than start the fair preparation in early March with item drop-off and pricing, most of the activity did not take place until the week before the fair. Also, the fair hours were changed to 8 am to noon, so instead of having a luncheon we offered a café with free coffee and tea plus individual food items for purchase. The entire tag sale was located in Neill Hall, plants were located on the Church Street lawn, and baked goods, books and the café were located in Anderson Hall. We are beyond grateful for everyone’s flexibility and willingness to try new approaches.

Substantial Funds Raised

We had an incredible day of hard work, fun and fellowship at the fair on May 11. As of May 28, we have raised just under $7,000. This amount may change with the submission of any additional income and expenses plus completed eBay sales.

Co-chairs Valerie Huestis, Sylvia Armogida and Laurel Workman
Meditations for a Time of Change

By Deacon Emeritus Karen Fedorchak

St. Mary’s is facing many changes. I have found two meditations focusing on change, and I have also written one. Dwell on them in prayer and listen to God in the midst of them. If you feel called, talk about and discern how your thoughts and feelings may be helpful to us at this time.

“What is changing in yourself that is hard to accept? By God’s invitation and grace, who are you becoming? Change may present a crisis, might be confusing and painful. Listen for God amid it all. Following Jesus means ongoing radical change, which God invites and enables, extending further, embracing wider, each and together becoming more.” — Br. Luke Ditewig, SSJE

“Changes have come to St. Mary’s and Christ is calling us to love, pray, discuss and discern how we will decide to respond to them. Jesus’s ministry in the world was his example to us of how we as Christians can respond to the needs of many in our community. Let us try to reimagine our faith community as ministry to the wider community and decide how we can move forward into the larger Body of Christ as Christ’s apostles.”

— Deacon Emeritus Karen Fedorchak

End of Church School Year Pot Luck

All parishioners are invited to attend our June 9 Potluck Picnic to celebrate the end of our Church School year. A Sign-up Genius email has been sent inviting parishioners to volunteer to bring a main dish or salad. If you haven’t received the email, please call Sarah Tierinni at 860.432.1264 to let her know what you’ll bring. Drinks and dessert will be provided. The picnic will start after the 9 am service, approximately 10:15. Let’s have some FUN together! We’ll have bounce houses, yard games and cupcake decorating!
Answers to FAQs Coming Your Way!

As a member of St. Mary’s, you undoubtedly have questions about the challenges facing the church and the changes taking place. Your Vestry is committed to answering your questions to the best of its ability. That’s why it’s developed a list of FAQs—frequently asked questions parishioners have raised to individuals or at group gatherings.

This extensive list of FAQs, with a cover letter from Rector Ann Lovejoy Johnson, will be available to you in several different ways. Hard copies will be available in church on Sunday, June 9. A link to the FAQs will be emailed to you on June 11. Hard copies will be sent by postal mail on June 11, as well.

The list ranges from a high-level view of financial realities and trends to potential relationships with other churches to summer worship plans to upcoming opportunities to gather, learn and talk.

Watch for these FAQs and plan now to come to the discussion opportunities described on page 1 of this issue of “Happenings.”

Peace by Piece on Summer Break

Peace by Piece Quilters held its last gathering on June 1 before taking the summer off. Watch “Happenings” and Sunday bulletins for when the group will resume in the fall. All are welcome to come to Peace by Piece activities. No sewing expertise necessary!

Questions? Contact Nancy Eaton at 860.649.0507.
Visitors are always welcome!

Worship Schedule

Sundays
7:30 am Holy Eucharist (except on the fifth Sunday of any month, when we have a single, 9 am service. Fifth Sunday in June is the 30th. Critical parish meeting follows the service.)

9 am Holy Eucharist (with music)
No Church School classes between June 9 and mid-September
10:15 Adult Forum on June 9 and 23

Tuesdays
7 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesdays
10 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer

The second Sunday of each month is “Family Worship Sunday” at the 9 a.m. service. The youth of the church take a special role in the service.

Annual Book and Bake Sale

July 6

St. Mary’s Book and Bake Sale is a great opportunity to stock up on summer reading for just pennies! Come to Anderson Hall on Saturday, July 6, between 8 am and noon to check out the extensive array of carefully organized books and—as a bonus—pick up some delicious baked goods prepared by St. Mary’s famous bakers. Bring your friends!

If you can contribute baked goods for the sale, please bring them to Anderson Hall between 9 am and 5 pm on Friday, July 5. Books can be donated July 1 through 5 between 9 am and noon.

Contact Jane Perrin or Sarah Tierinni with questions.

AmazonSmile

When you shop at AmazonSmile, the Amazon Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. Mary’s.

Follow this link http://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0653094 OR

AmazonSmile is the same as your regular Amazon account. Your login and password are the same.

Instead of logging into your www.amazon.com account, log into www.smile.amazon.com

Call or email Mechelle Tovar Olortegui for details
860.995.1946 / mechelle.tovar2011@gmail.com

Many thanks to Rod Jenson for sharing his delightful photos from St. Mary’s May Fair