Reflections from our Rector

Folding fans and praying hands

Summer at St. Mary’s is always a special time of year—after a busy spring including Easter, Pentecost, and celebration of our seniors and graduate students as they receive their hard-earned degrees and head out into the world, things slow down. The choir finishes up their season, and the temperatures climb in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. One of my first memories of St. Mary’s was hearing a member of the search committee talk about life without air conditioning (being a good Southerner, it never dawned on me that there might be un-airconditioned churches)! She described the clusters of worshippers on Sunday mornings, grouped in the pews next to the six standing fans in the side aisles, eagerly awaiting the brief glancing breeze from the rotary fans. These days I am reminded of another sweet memory each summer Sunday as I look out into the congregation from my prayer desk and see colorful folding fans aflutter, remnants of my own wedding in this sanctuary on what had to have been the hottest day of July 2013.

Though life slows to a more leisurely pace during the summer months, it doesn’t stop by any means. We have a full schedule of worship and fellowship opportunities throughout the season, including our Third Sunday Potluck Brunches and a repeat of our popular St. Mary’s Night at Shakespeare in Clark Park on Sunday, July 31st at 7PM. And before we know it, the fall will be upon us, and we will welcome new students and families who have moved to campus and our West Philadelphia neighborhood, greet our members returning from vacations or sabbaticals, put away the fans, welcome back the choir, and enter into our new program year refreshed and energized. Whatever your plans are this summer, I encourage you to make a place in your day for a conversation with God, whether you use the Daily Office found in our Book of Common Prayer, a contemplative prayer technique like Centering Prayer or Lectio Divina, or something much more personal, like a check-in every morning or evening about your hopes and fears for the coming day, so that you may welcome our Lord into those moments alongside you. I think that you will find that this regular time for God establishes a subtle rhythm to your days, and brings you closer to Jesus in all that you do.

Peace,
Mariclair+

The Rev. Mariclair Partee Carlsen | rector@stmarysatpenn.org
Welcome to the second issue of the St. Mary’s Newsletter and Happy Summer! Brunches on the lawn, fans in church, and delightful weather - we have all of this to look forward to as we enter another famous Philly summer. Once you’ve gotten your air conditioning unit up and running, we invite you to take a look at what is happening at St. Mary’s and in our community. Whether it’s learning everything there is to know about the St. Mary’s altar, or perfecting a classic Carolina BBQ, there’s something for everyone to enjoy!

Now that we are getting into a rhythm with the newsletter, we want to make sure that we maintain enthusiasm and engagement within the St. Mary’s community. Please help us to continue to improve with your thoughts, suggestions and comments. You will notice the name and e-mail address of the author of each piece at the bottom. Your input is invaluable - it wouldn’t be a St. Mary’s Newsletter without the voices of St. Marians! If you would like to contribute in any way, or have any ideas about what you would like to see in future newsletters, please contact Sally Hillman Redman at sallyh.redman@gmail.com. Stay cool and happy reading!

Anna Albrecht, Parish Administrator | administrator@stmarysatpenn.org

Our talented and devoted choir will take a summer hiatus from rehearsals after Pentecost. On summer Sundays, a designated choir member serves as cantor to lead the congregation in singing the hymns and liturgical music. Watch for summer anthems from small groups and soloists to enliven our worship.

Do you have a favorite hymn that you’d wish to sing at St. Mary’s? Perhaps it is in a different hymnal? Summer is a great time to try something new or to rediscover an old gem. Talk to organist/choirmaster David Shunskis.

Look for us back in our robes and our choir stalls on September 11th! You are always welcome to join our all volunteer choir at St. Mary’s: rehearsals are Sundays at 9:30 AM. Please consider sharing your musical gifts. Fall highlights will include a repeat performance of the Fauré Requiem.

Special thanks to our choir members for 2015-2016!
Sopranos: Carol Chason, Anjali Gallup-Diaz, Matre Grant, Katie Somers, Joan Spellman
Altos: Claudia Crane, Molly Dougherty, Pattie Dougherty Duncan, Jerene Good, Judith Schermer, Ginny Wilder, Brooke Yanovich
Tenors: Aaron Todd, Frank Innes
Basses: Bobby Mann, Holman Massey

David Shunskis, Organist/Choirmaster | music@stmarysatpenn.org
When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried, Alleluia!
- The Hymnal 1982, #420

It is easy to see a music ministry as a spectator sport. It is easy to merely listen as the choir sings. Perhaps we don’t know this hymn, or it’s difficult to sing, or we can’t read music, or we don’t think we are good singers. But every hymn serves a purpose, and it’s more than background music for a processional or while the altar is prepared. Each hymn forms us in faith. Each hymn contains a message, a message which enriches the readings for the day. Each hymn is another sermon.

Often the best way to learn something is to speak it, or teach it to someone else. As singers, as participants in the music ministry, we are also teaching, not just one another, but also ourselves. To sit back and listen would be to miss out on the wonderful testimony contained in every hymn. We, members of the whole creation, take part.

The Sanctorus (Holy, Holy, Holy), according to Isaiah 6:1-3, is the never-ending hymn that is sung to the praise and glory of God by the angels and the whole assembly of the Church Triumphant. When we sing this hymn before the Eucharist we join our voices with those of the entire Church on Earth, the saints who have gone before us, and those who are yet to come. We sing this hymn; we do not observe it, nor even witness it. We participate, joining the saints of all times and places.

I have often heard compliments to church choirs or directors on how good the “performance” was. Sisters and brothers in Christ, the music at the Mass is not a performance. It is an offering; an offering of praise to God. But more than that, it is a rehearsal. It is a rehearsal for our promised membership in the great choir of saints. So let us rejoice as we sing, because every hymn we sing is in preparation for the feast to come. In the mass, let us sing as we are able; even if we don’t think we can sing, in the end the quality of our music is secondary to its inclusiveness. We should participate in the music ministry if we can, and participate enthusiastically as we sing. Now there’s something to rejoice about.

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always, Alleluia!

Joel Lefever, Assistant Organist | joel.lefever@gmail.com
Report from the Rector’s Warden

Decisions Big and Small

February 23, 2016, Vestry Meeting Highlights

The meeting began with prayers for evening from the Book of Common Prayer.

Reports. Two van loads of items were delivered to the Nationalities Services Center for local refugees. Thanks to James Nowoslawski, a University of the Sciences student and regular at St. Mary’s, for getting contributions from Sciences. Also to Sarto Schickel and Jennifer Kurumvalage for making van deliveries.

The new director of the St. Mary’s Nursery School has resigned, and the school plans to hire an interim director.

Frank Innes and Scott Wilds attended a “walkabout”—meetings with the candidates for Bishop of Pennsylvania—at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Representing St. Mary’s lay members at the Convention on March 12 will be Scott, Shirley Carter and Carol LaBelle, with Frank as alternate.

Decision Items. A draft budget for 2016 was distributed, discussed and adopted. Modest pay increases were provided. The parish administrator’s position is now salaried with a 403b match. Paid Sunday child care was ended due to lack of use.

Year to date operating budget as of January 31 showed a surplus of $12,378. The pancake supper brought in $310.

Parish work day/cleaning for Easter was scheduled for March 19.


March 15, 2016, Vestry Meeting Highlights

Reports. A revised proposal from Russell Roofing for the top tower roof, using scaffolding rather than a crane, came to $12,700 for roofing and $4,000 for the scaffolding. Since this bid was less than 10% above the original proposal, the Rector, Wardens and Treasurer accepted that bid. Work may being as early as the week of March 28.

The St. Mary’s Nursery School appointed a new director, Traci Childress.

At Convention, the Rev. Canon Daniel C. P. Gutierrez was selected as Bishop Elect. Consecration of the new bishop will be held on July 16. More information is available on the diocese website: http://www.diopa.org.

Today, March 15, is the third anniversary for Mariclair as rector of St. Mary’s.
Teaching: Welcoming the Stranger; part 2. Vestry members shared personal stories of their reasons for member of St. Mary’s, and how they would describes these reasons to a stranger/neighbor/non-churched person.

Discussion. St. Marian John Ash has had initial discussions with the Wyncote Foundation which may be interested in helping to fund the next phase of organ restoration.

The Easter Week schedule and arrangements were discussed and assignments taken on for food, decorating the church, readers, food, etc.

The annual meeting will be Sunday, April 17, between Mass and brunch. Vestry elections will be held at the same time. Stan Stachelek, Claudia Crane, Ron Rhodes and Carol LaBelle will be rotating off. Possible new vestry members were discussed and suggested.

Sally Hillman Redman brought up some fundraising suggestions for 2016. Mariclair asked for volunteers to serve on a fundraising sub-committee.

Treasurer Stan Stachelek reported a year to date surplus of $11,588.

April 19, 2016, Vestry Meeting Highlights.

New vestry members attending were Robin Foster-Drain and Karen Stachelek.

Information. Outgoing vestry members Claudia, Ron, Stan and Carol were thanked and saluted for their service.

The tower roof work is underway.

Discussion. The annual meeting was discussed and a committee was formed to review the by-laws with regard to membership and vestry membership requirements. Mariclair and Vanessa Lowry will serve.

Sally Hillman Redman led a discussion about possible options for fundraising. A smaller group consisting of Karen, Robin, Sally and Mariclair will meet to discuss further.

Volunteers were requested to staff the St. Mary’s table at the annual Clark Park May Fair on May 7. Sally and Vanessa will assist.

Decision. The 2015 Parochial Report was reviewed and approved.

Vestry Officers were elected: Sally Hillman Redman, People’s Warden; Yvonne Michael, Secretary/Clerk, Frank Innes, Treasurer (at least until June).

The Vestry agreed to contribute $100 in memory of Patricia Vizuete to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, with condolences to her husband, our long time sexton Gonzalo Vizuete. Mariclair contributed from the Rector’s Discretionary Fund to help support the funeral luncheon.

Scott Wilds, Rector’s Warden | scottwilds@aol.com
Treasurer’s Report

A Look Back on 2015

**Summary:** We ended 2015 with a budget surplus of $773.00. Specifically we received $252,166.00 in income during 2015 and had expenses totaling $251,393.00. For 2016, we have planned for a balanced budget of $252,400.00 in income (breakdown in Figure 1 below). This is a 1.7% increase from last year’s budget.

**Pledges:** Your pledge donations represent a significant portion of the working income for Saint Mary’s. Once again, I am happy to report that received pledge donations for 2015 were 99% of intended pledges. I am also pleased to report that the amount budgeted for pledges has increased from $83,500.00 in 2015 to $85,650.00 in 2016.

**Audit:** Fellow St. Mary parishioners, Carol Chason and Carol LaBelle, performed an internal audit on the finances of our church. After an examination of the church’s investments, fiscal practices, and financial accounts, no serious issues were noted. As a result of this audit we will begin to inventory all church assets and establish a protocol for estate planning.

![Figure 1. Breakdown of 2016 Income Source](image1.png)

![Figure 2. Breakdown of 2016 Expenses](image2.png)

Overall, as the Treasurer of Saint Mary’s Church, I am happy to report that our church is financially secure. Please do keep current on your pledges during the summer months. I am delighted to announce that Frank Innes will succeed me as Treasurer as of May 2016.

Stan Stachelek, Treasurer  |  sjstachelek@gmail.com
People’s Warden Report

All are Welcome, No Exceptions!

Like so many at St. Mary’s, I am not a cradle Episcopalian. I was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, and attended twelve years of Catholic schools in Red Bank, New Jersey. I was taught by the Sisters of Mercy who were well-educated and caring women. I have many fond childhood memories of school. Besides the nuns, I learned about my faith from my 100% Irish mother. Madeleine Connolly Hillman taught me a reverence for the liturgy, all the saints in heaven, but especially, the Virgin Mary. To this day, in times of stress, my first prayer is “Hail Mary, full of grace.”

But as a child of the 1960’s, I also questioned all aspects of my faith and authority. When I would pose my questions and doubts, the good Sisters would reply that it was “simply a matter of faith.” For a doubter, this was a very unsatisfying answer. When I finally stepped away from the Catholic Church, it was over the infallibility of the Pope, and his authority over the size of my future family. In my first year of college, I broke my mother’s Irish heart when I told her that I would no longer go to church.

But when it was time to get married, Marty Redman and I had a problem. We were both lapsed Catholics who still wanted a church wedding. By the grace of God, the solution presented itself in the person of my fiancé’s fraternity advisor! Reverend Kermit Lloyd, known by all as Padre, sat with us at a fraternity event one evening when we were talking about our situation. He turned his full gaze on both of us and asked: “Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Last Supper, and the Resurrection?” When we both answered yes, Padre said he would be proud to marry us. At that moment, I started on my path to becoming an Episcopalian!

To be clear, it didn’t happen overnight. Interestingly, my first impulse to go back to church on a regular basis came from watching the fellowship that our best friends experienced at their Methodist church. I wanted to have a part of that joy.

When our first child arrived, I realized that I wanted a faith tradition for Katie. I started to attend services at St. John’s on the Square in Carlisle, PA on a regular basis in 1987, and was received in April 1990. I joked that they got two-for-one since I was pregnant with my son, Max, when the bishop laid his hands on my shoulders.

Since then, I have been very active in four different Episcopal churches, have served on two vestries, numerous committees, and completed Education for Ministry (EfM), a four-year certificate from the University of the South (Sewanee). It has been a marvelous journey along the way! I also believe that my mother, who died in 1974, would now be pleased with my decision.

I hope that all who read this article realize that wherever you are in your walk with Christ; you are welcome at St. Mary’s, Hamilton Village. Your questions and doubts, as well as your faith, can be part of our conversation. If you just want to talk, I am happy to listen to your story. If you are ready to take another step to joining in the fun, please speak with Mother Mariclaire. But always know that “All are welcome, no exceptions!”

Sally Hillman Redman, People’s Warden | sally.h.redman@gmail.com
News and Announcements

Are you interested in helping out with our spectacular Sunday coffee hour? Contact Pattie Duncan at (215) 472-2014 or at pattiedade@gmail.com. You will also notice a coffee hour freewill offering box on the beverages table – your donations are welcome!

Worship volunteers needed!
You can help make mass happen! Are you interested in helping with services, as a reader, intercessor, acolyte, or usher? Please contact Anna at (215) 386-3916 or at administrator@stmarysatpenn.org. Acolytes and ushers especially!

St. Mary's Directory

A new directory for St. Mary's is now an active community project. We want to have photos of everyone, taken by Aaron Todd or Mother Mariclair, which will help us all to learn the names and faces of every St. Marian.

Photo day is scheduled for the September Third Sunday Brunch - September 18th, 2016.

Contact Anna at administrator@stmarysatpenn.org with updated contact information, birthdays, and how long you have been at St. Mary's!

Target completion date is Fall 2016!

Jerene Good | jerene49@gmail.com
Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday, June 1st – Sunday, June 26th

different Paths 2016 Art Show
St. Marian Judith Schermer has several pieces in this year’s show at the 3rd Street Gallery (45 N. 2nd Street). Check it out on First Friday, June 3rd from 5pm-9pm and come by the Artists Reception on Sunday, June 5th from 1pm-4pm. All are welcome!

Sunday, June 5th
Baptism of Adeline Suvi Forrest, 11am

Wednesday, June 8th
Schuylkill Deanery Meeting, 6pm
At St. George & St. Barnabas

Saturday, June 11th
Diocese of Pennsylvania Ordinations
at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 10am
Mother Mariclar will be preaching.

Wednesday, June 15th
Our Musical Director, David Shunskis, will be hosting a recital for his piano students. 5pm-8pm

Sunday, June 19th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
Please bring a dish to share!

Tuesday, June 21st
Vestry Meeting, 7pm

Saturday, July 16th
Ordination and Consecration of

Sunday, July 17th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
Please bring a dish to share!

Tuesday, July 19th
Vestry Meeting, 7pm

Sunday, July 31st
St. Mary’s Night at Shakespeare in Clark Park
Join us for a picnic in the park with the beloved Bard! Performance begins at 7pm. This year’s production will be The Two Gentlemen of Verona.

Sunday, August 21st
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
Please bring a dish to share!

Tuesday, August 23rd
Vestry Meeting, 7pm

August 24-26th
Penn New Student Orientation

August 30th
Penn First Day of Classes

Early September, date TBD
Welcome Picnic and New Student BBQ

A Prayer for Summer

Ever-creating God, you have given us the gift of the seasons to order our common lives, and in the heat of the shining summer sun our souls are warmed with your presence. We ask that you bless us all during these months spent enjoying the beauty of your Creation- oceans, mountains, our own back yards- with a keen appreciation of what you have wrought in this world, and that you help us to safely return to each other renewed and refreshed at the close of the day. All this we ask through your son, Jesus Christ, and the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.
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Community Outreach

NSC Donations Calendar

**JUNE AND JULY**

**Clothing:** Polos, blouses, dress-shirts, t-shirts, socks, shorts/capris, jeans, sneakers, hats, swimwear, sandals, and flat shoes for adults and children.

**Food:** Gift cards to grocery stores, rice, beans, boxes of mixed grains, pasta & sauce, quick recipe mixes/mac & cheese, granola bars.

**Toiletries (new):** Feminine hygiene products (esp. pads), toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash shampoo & conditioner, lotion, face wash, soap, hair brushes. Kid-friendly toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, hypo-allergenic lotion.

**Misc.:** Diapers, formula, strollers, unopened undergarments, books.

**AUGUST**

**Clothing:** School uniforms, t-shirts, shorts, pants, khakis, polos, sneakers, light scarves.

**School supplies (all ages):** Backpacks, lunchboxes, composition notebooks, No. 2 pencils, erasers, crayons or color-pencils, crackers/snacks, safe scissors, folders, pencil case, rulers, book covers, juice packs, college-ruled 3 or 5 subject notebooks, planner, pens, erasable pens & lead pencils, 1-1.5 inch binders, calculators, book covers, snacks, pencil case.

**Food, Toiletries, Misc.:** Same as June and July.

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Sally Hillman Redman, St. Mary’s Refugee Committee Chair | sally.h.redman@gmail.com

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Stewardship Moment

**A Second Chance to Be Useful**

I'm always noticing useful things set out for trash as I bike to work. It saddens me that many people throw away functional items rather than donate them, but I'm gladdened when I see something I can use, saving me money and the time and trouble of shopping. Also, it is somewhat satisfying to know that I am preventing a tiny bit of CO₂ (in the grand scheme of it all) from being emitted by not buying something newly manufactured. Last week, I spied what looked like a perfectly good salad spinner perched atop a set-out recycling bucket. I took it home, carefully washed it out, and used it. It spun like a top! My husband said, “We already have a salad spinner.” I said “Yeah, but the one we have has a cracked top.” We got into a bit of a...discussion - about me not wanting to recycle the cracked one. “After all,” I said, “it still works!” I had to concede we had no need of two spinners, and that our kitchen space is finite. Then I remembered that St. Mary's has been collecting clothing and household items for refugees. So I brought the scavenged spinner to our collection corner at the back of the sanctuary. Like the refugees themselves, the salad spinner has a second chance to be useful in the world. Additionally, reusing is just another way to be good stewards of God’s creation. Please see the lists of donations items above.

Claudia Crane | claudia@claudiacrane.com
The Famous St. Mary’s Altar (part 1 of 2)

The stunning marble altar that stands in the apse of the church, the semi-circular end of the building, was not part of the original 1872 building in which we now worship. The complete history of the construction of the altar itself and how it came to be here would easily fill several issues of the newsletter. Instead, this article (Part One) will cover how the altar came to be here, and Part Two (in the Fall issue) will discuss its construction and the art and Christian symbols portrayed in it.

The story of the altar begins in Rome where the Rev. Joseph Bloomington Wetherill was temporarily in charge of the American Chapel in Rome in the Fall of 1871. Father Wetherill was a seeker – the priesthood being his fourth and final profession after studying medicine, being a businessman, and then a Major in the Union Army Quartermaster Department during the Civil War. Fr. Wetherill had a deep interest in the Oxford Movement, a movement to bring back ancient faith traditions which resulted in the Anglo-Catholic liturgy we now celebrate. The religious art and architecture of Rome moved him deeply, and he began to collect religious artifacts. This interest culminated in his commissioning of the altar which he intended for St. Clement’s Church. He offered it to St. Clement’s more than once but was rebuffed by their Vestry.

An article in the March 24, 1890 edition of the Philadelphia Times on the installation of the altar picks up the story:

St Mary’s Protestant Episcopal Church in West Philadelphia has lately been the recipient of a remarkable gift. The magnificent marble altar, with the wonderful mosaic reredos, which, since the close of the Centennial Exposition [in 1876], has been the chief work of art of its kind exhibited at Memorial Hall, is about to be removed to the church, through the liberality of one of its members. This altar has an interesting history. It is intended to be a memorial to Mrs. Isabella Macomb Wetherill, the widow of Dr. William Wetherill, who died in 1871.

Her son, the late Rev. J. Bloomfield Wetherill, who died a few years ago, is the one who built this altar to her memory. During the period of his ministry he occupied several stations and cherished some ambitions in the direction of a grand memorial church, which, however, were never realized.

In 1879, Fr. Wetherill married Kate Smith, who inherited a fortune from her grandaunt, Mrs. A. T. Stewart. Wetherill died in 1886 without having found a home for his altar. The Times article continues:

The altar was built in Rome by the same artists in marble and mosaic work who have done the finest modern work of a similar character in the Eternal City. The marble sculpture is by Valenzi, the Byzantine mosaic by Leonardi, and the pictures in Roman mosaic by Rubicondi — each famous in his line. When it was concluded to place the altar in the Centennial Exposition as a work of art, ..., as the question of [import] duty came up, and it was finally [kept] under bond in Memorial Hall.
Just how it happened to remain these fourteen years the most conspicuous object in Memorial Hall involves many interesting points. Various movements have been made to have it placed in different Protetant Episcopal churches, and the Wetherill family naturally desired its removal, but, owing to many complications, there it has remained. In the first place, it was in bond. Then it was part of the assets of an unsettled estate ... At one time soon after the Centennial Rev. Mr. Wetherill believed it would find a place in a memorial church which he hoped to build himself, but in this design he was disappointed.

When Wetherill’s estate was finally settled, William H. Wetherill, his brother, made the altar a gift to St. Mary’s from the Wetherill family. The rebuilding of the apse to be 12 feet longer than the original, new stained glass windows, and the moving of the altar in 1890 cost approximately $8,000, and much of this cost was also funded by the Wetherill family.

Frank Innes | finnes@alum.drexel.edu

Sources:
Camman, Schuyler V. R., St. Mary’s Church, Hamilton Village, and Its Famous Altar, copyright 1984, Sherwin/Dodge printers, Littleton, NH. (available for borrowing from the church office)

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**Cook’s Corner**

**Smokin’ Hot BBQ Pork Butt**

Well here comes another recipe, sort of from the other side of the family. Scott’s brother and his folks live about a mile north of Raleigh, North Carolina (NC hereafter), and on several visits they’ve taken us to this take-out joint in town for a local BBQ treasure, NC pulled pork. My family has no tradition of real barbeque (I discount burning chicken on a gas grill) so it was a revelation. And lucky for me (and you all), shortly after one visit, I found a recipe for it in the Philadelphia Inquirer. So I cut that baby out and taped it to a sheet of paper, put it in a binder, and the rest is history.

You start with a 5-7 pound Boston butt. I just love the name, and it is actually called that sometimes; it’s a whole bone-in pork shoulder. Gone are the days when you could find it on sale for $.79 a pound, but I recently found it at Supremo for $.99 a pound and jumped right on that for Third Sunday. A day or two before grilling you mix up the rub; a tablespoon each of salt, pepper, paprika, and brown sugar. Then you rub your butt with it and pop it in the fridge to cure. Helpful hint: put plastic gloves on first, for the rub will want to stick on your hands as well as your butt. On BBQ day you mix up your mop sauce: whisk together 3 cups white vinegar, 1 cup water, 1/3 cup brown sugar, 2 Tbsp. salt, 2-4 tsp. red pepper flakes, 1 tsp. black pepper, and 1/3 cup of ketchup (optional). Place half the sauce in a bowl for mopping the roast, set aside the rest. Also begin soaking 4-6 cups of hickory chips in cold water.
You grill the roast on indirect heat, low and slow for 4-6 hours until it hits 190 degrees internally. I swear by my Weber kettle; it has baskets that go on either side for the charcoal and vents on the bottom and top of the grill that you can use to control the heat. It also has a built in thermometer to monitor the temperature. You light ¾ of a chimney of charcoal (more will make too hot a fire), put a drip pan in the middle, and distribute the coals on either side. Then put your butt, fat side up, over the drip pan, sprinkle ½ cup of the chips over each side of the coals, and pop the lid on!

But I’m forgetting my contribution to the recipe! By the end of my first time the drip pan was full of this black sludgy stuff -- no use at all. I had been hoping to get drippings to boost the flavor (NOT in the recipe). So next time I’m thinking and praying about it, and I spy a bottle of unpretentious bubbly on the wine rack. Inspiration strikes! I pour the bottle into the drip pan at the beginning, and by the end I do have plenty of dark brown drippings to use. Of course any dry white wine would work. I guarantee you will never find this step in any genuine NC pulled pork recipe.

Then you must mop your butt generously every hour after the first, and also put 10 briquettes and ½ cup of hickory chips in both side baskets each time. Plus tent your butt with aluminum foil after the first hour. After 4-6 hours you’re done. I just let the butt sit on the grill for an hour or so as the heat dies down; I find it makes the pulling easier. Let it rest for a bit until you can handle it, then attack your butt with a pair of forks and shred it mercilessly. The recipe has you put 1 cup of the mop sauce into finely chopped cabbage for the slaw, but I prefer my mayo based slaw recipe so I pour all the mop sauce into the pork as well as the defatted pan drippings. You can always shake some sauce off as you’re making the sandwich on simple hamburger buns. As always, if you have any questions, catch me at church.

Martin Bodtmann | marbodt@aol.com

Campus Ministry

Discovery Through Differences

The first time that I remember seeing St. Mary’s was around --11pm on the first night of Freshman Orientation. A group of my new hall mates had decided to start college off right by heading to a frat party that night. I made it all the way to 40th & Spruce before I decided to peel off and go back to my room, reminding myself that I wasn’t exactly the frat-partying type. I remember thinking when I passed by, “Cool church, maybe I’ll pop in on Sunday.” Well, I didn’t. And I didn’t pop in the Sunday after that or the Sunday after that either. The first time that I went to church my freshman year was the week right before Fall Break. I remember it distinctly because I made myself a mental note that I needed to go to church before heading home so that when I was asked if I had been going, I could honestly answer yes.

To give a little background on why the answer to that question needed to be a yes, it would help to know that I’m a “PK.” I’m not sure if this is a common acronym for Episcopalians, so I’ll explain that “PK” means “preacher’s kid.” My father has been a minister in the AME Zion Church since I was 2 and a pastor since I was 9. And a few years before that, my mom also entered the ministry. So, needless to say I’ve got a triple dose of PK and the answer to that question was very important.
I went to church a few more times freshman year, but not very often. When I returned for my sophomore year, I was determined to not let that be the case. I started coming more often. At the time, I was also sometimes attending Big Wesley AME Zion Church, but as the year went on, I started going less and less there and more and more to St. Mary’s. And it really doesn’t make a whole lot of sense. On paper, Big Wesley was a better match. It’s the same denomination that I was raised in, an order of service that I was used to, and some of the people there even knew my family from work that my parents had done within the AME Zion church. But it just didn’t click.

For some reason, I felt happy and comfortable at St. Mary’s. Fast forward a few semesters and I remember a conversation that I had with Rev. Mariclair, who was thanking me for serving as an acolyte after she had asked me for the 15th time, about how I found my way to St. Mary’s. We talked a lot about my AME Zion background and why I had chosen to switch to an Episcopal church. I explained that I didn’t really see it like that. I told her that to me, Christianity is Christianity, and the slight differences between denominations seem to drive apart people who have much in common. I said that I just wanted a place where I felt comfortable and could go with my issues and my praises.

I remember thinking that this place chants a lot more than I’m used to. I remember thinking these songs aren’t as animated and this sermon is way shorter than I’m used to. But if you focus on the words and not the notes, if you focus on the lyrics and melody and don’t compare it to gospel music, if you focus on the message and get past the fact that it’s not a 30 minute sermon, you get to the good stuff. You get to the stuff that helps you in your everyday life, and you get to the stuff that helps you figure out who you are and should want to be.

After I graduate, I’ll be going to D.C. to work for a large management consulting company. It’ll be fun, and it’ll be challenging. Maybe one day, I’ll have a tough day on site where the client chewed us out and I don’t know how I’m possibly going to figure it all out, but I know that then, the lessons from St. Mary’s will help me push through. Thank you all for three great years.

Adrian Nelson III  |  University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, 2016
Sunday School Report

Reflections on a successful school year

The St Mary's Sunday school is intended for children aged three years and up and takes place during the weekly church service, with the children joining the congregation for communion each week. We have roughly 12 Sunday school students and follow the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum which offers something for each age group and learning style.

This year, we welcomed a new family to our Sunday School cohort. I encourage everyone to invite families to participate in our Sunday school - the personal invitation goes a LONG way, so please don't be shy!

We put on a Christmas play in December and Children's service in the spring semester each year. Our Last Day of Sunday school for the semester will be on May 22nd. We will continue to have children's services on 5th Sundays, we just haven't had many this calendar year.

There are six teachers involved in the Sunday school whose dedication and enthusiasm make our gatherings so awesome - Thank you: Ann, Glorie, Jamuna, Lee Ann, Sara, Stan, and Vanessa.

Sara Macro Forrest | forrest.sara@gmail.com

St. Mary’s Staff Profile: Gonzalo Vizuete

How long have you been at St. Mary’s? I have been the sexton at St. Mary’s for more than 30 years.

How did you come to work here? I am from Ecuador, and decided to immigrate to the United States for my children. My sons, Nicholas and Andrew, were diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy when they were very young. My wife, Patricia, was from Philadelphia, so it was easy to come here, and we knew that they would get the best medical care in the United States. When we arrived, Nicholas was 5 and Andrew was 3 and a half. If we had stayed in Ecuador, neither one of them would have lived to be 8 years old. Nicholas passed away on July 1, 2002, at the age of 24. Andrew is now 37, and still receives treatment at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. CHoP has been doing pioneering research for kids with Muscular Dystrophy for decades, and continues to be the best place for treatment in the country.

When we first came to this city, we lived in the Ronald McDonald House on Chestnut Street for 63 days. While I was there I got to know the manager of the facility, and started doing odd jobs to help out. My father was an artisan who had a rug factory, and as a child I had helped him make the wool rugs by hand. Later, carpentry was my hobby, and I used to build furniture for friends in Ecuador. Because of these skills, I could do small projects around the building.
St. Mary's Staff Profile: Gonzalo Vizuete

Through that manager I met a representative from an organization that worked with immigrants in the city, and she helped my family get our first apartment, at 47th and Chester. Diana Post, a vestry member at St. Mary's, was also involved with the immigrant settlement organization, and she asked if anyone was interested in a job at the church as sexton.

I didn't speak any English at the time, and I didn't know what a sexton was. By then I was working for myself, fixing and painting houses in West Philadelphia, and I liked being my own boss. Also, in Ecuador I was a teacher- I taught Social Studies for 26 years, and met my wife at the school where we both taught- so I thought becoming a sexton would be a step down professionally.

By this time we had one child in a wheelchair already, and it was hard work to take care of both of the boys, and we didn't have any outside help.

Patricia pushed me to give the job a try, saying I could always stop if I didn't like it, and that it would be good to have reliable work, rather than going from job to job on referrals. Also, here people aren't defined by their jobs as much as they are in Ecuador. I met with John Scott, and decided to take the job because it was from 9AM-2PM, Tuesdays through Sundays, and that gave me the rest of the day to do my other work in the neighborhood and at home.

After a month, though, Patricia was unhappy because we weren't able to spend time together as a family on Saturday, or go to church together on Sunday. We attended St. Francis de Sales, and both of our sons made their First Communion and were confirmed there. I went to John Scott and told him I couldn't continue to work on the weekends. He was very angry. After a few days he came to me and said, "I want to keep you here, so find someone to work for you on Sundays." I didn't know anybody, but together we found a Sunday Sexton, and my schedule became Monday through Friday. Then Fr. Scott was happy, and Patricia was happy. And I was happy!

At one point I applied to be a teacher in Philadelphia, and I interviewed, but with my sons I needed to have flexibility so that if Nicholas had pneumonia, I could take him to the hospital in the middle of the day, or if Andrew had surgery, I could be with him.

What is your favorite thing about your work? Just like when I was teacher, I know what the tasks are that need to be done, and I can decide what I do each day. I like having that autonomy. When I look back on my years here, I don't regret anything. I know that my son is 37 years old today because of the care that I could give him over the years, and no other job would have made that possible.

You can find Gonzalo in the church Monday-Friday, from 9am-2pm!

This interview was conducted by Mother Mariclair.
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Gonzalo Vizuete Sexton
Patrick O’Brien Sunday Sexton
Joel Lefever Assistant Organist

Vestry
Scott Wilds Rector’s Warden
Sally Hillman Redman People’s Warden
Frank Innes Treasurer
Yvonne Michael Clerk
Robin Foster-Drain
Eric Krewson
Vanessa Albert Lowry
Holman Massey
Allie Schreffler
Karen Stachelek

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