Rector’s Reflections

The things we do to mark a holy Lent.

With every changing liturgical season, the Sunday mass at St. Mary’s shifts to help set the tone for worship. As Episcopalians we are the beneficiaries of a rich heritage of tools for our corporate worship, from the multiple Eucharistic and daily prayers in our Book of Common Prayer and other authorized resources like Enriching Our Worship 1 through 5, to the vestments, vessels, and buildings handed down from generation to generation. We have multiple hymnals for use in praising God, and here at St. Mary’s we try to use diverse music from at least two of these for each mass. All of these details are carefully considered as the worship booklet for the season is designed.

In Lent, to reflect the somber and solemn season of penitence, the jeweled chalice and paten set we use most often is stowed away in the silver safe, and a more subdued set takes its place. The paraments and vestments are changed to dark purple, and the brass crosses on the high altar and side chapel altars are draped in veils, along with the processional crosses. The order of the service shifts, beginning on the first Sunday with the Great Litany, and then the penitential order on subsequent Sundays, to remind us of the centrality of humility in our relationship with God and each other. This Lent, we have the permission of the bishop to include the Prayer of Humble Access in our mass prayers. Found in our prayer book in Rite I, which is not a prayer we use at our principal service at St. Mary’s, it may be unfamiliar to many. Said by the celebrant and people directly before the invitation to communion, the text is as follows (here with modernized language):

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.
Why are we including this prayer this Lent? One of the purposes of our common prayer is to give us a foothold in the midst of both joy and penitence, anchoring us every Sunday, together, at the foot of the cross, where we are reminded that we are God’s first and foremost. We are living in a world full of uncertainty and fear these days, and the temptation is to withdraw, isolate, self-protect. The words of this prayer are particularly important at this time in our common life, and frame the sacrament that we partake in as both the sacrifice and the healing we find in Christ’s all-encompassing love. Now, more than ever, we need the nourishment of body, mind, and spirit offered to us in the Eucharist, and the communion we are offered in it with our Savior. And so we offer ourselves with humility, to be raised up with God, that our hearts of stone may be broken open upon the altar, and replaced with living flesh.

The Rev. Mariclar Partee Carlsen | rector@stmarysatpenn.org

**Deadline for Easter Memorial Flower Donations - April 7th**

Envelopes for memorial flower donations can be found at the back of the church. Please write the names of those you are giving in memory of clearly, as their names will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

**Are you graduating in May?**

Please let Mother Mariclar know by April 21st!
Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of the St. Mary’s Newsletter – we’ve seen four seasons come and go since our inaugural issue. What a delightful little taste of summer we had this February, though the whole time I was uneasy about the unseasonable warmth! I invite you to take a look at what is happening at St. Mary’s and in our community. Whether catching up on important vestry discussion or hearing from one of our longest-standing parishioners, there is plenty to check out!

Now that we have had a newsletter for every season, we want to see what kind of impact it has made, and how it can be improved. Your input is invaluable - it wouldn’t be a St. Mary’s Newsletter without the voices of St. Marian’s! 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. Happy reading!

Anna Albrecht, Parish Administrator | administrator@stmarysatpenn.org
Lent and Easter Music - Joy!

This year’s Lenten/Easter season will feature the St. Mary’s Choir, soloists and guest musicians in a great variety of worshipful music. During the Lenten season our devoted choir will be performing diverse selections ranging from Palestrina’s lovely Adoramus te to Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Pie Jesu with Matré Grant as soloist, to William Billings’ early American classic When Jesus Wept. Of special interest will be the Lenten Cantata Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben by Deitrich Buxtehude on April 2 at the morning service. This wonderful early Baroque masterpiece will be performed with the Franklin String Quartet plus two accompanying our choir and soloists. David will collaborate with the Bach D Minor Concerto for prelude and postlude. We are sending get-well prayers to Anjali and hoping she will be able to sing Give Me Jesus during our Lenten observances.

The Joy of Easter will be accentuated with the glorious peals of trumpet music played by Al Freeman returning for his second Easter at St. Mary’s. Becoming a tradition at the Easter Service, the Mass singing of the Hallelujah Chorus will lift our spirits with the joy of the Resurrection.

Do you have a musical talent or a desire to be a part of the musical life of St. Mary’s. All are welcome! Contact David.

David Shunskis, Organist/Choirmaster | music@stmarysatpenn.org
November 15, 2016

Vanessa Albert Lowry led the group in spiritual practice. The minutes of the October meeting were approved with minor corrections.

Saturday, November 26, was selected for a parish work day. After discussion, the Vestry decided to use PayPal to enable credit card contributions. The rector researched various options and PayPal's non-profit service seemed to be the best option.

Update on Diocesan Convention and Bishop Gutierrez. Carol LaBelle and Mariclar attended Convention on November 5. The diocese's budget will be held level for a year. St Mary's assessment will increase slightly. The new Bishop has a lot of energy; he is engaging via Facebook and email. The Bishop has created a Diocesan app that allows one to search each parish and identify clergy. Beginning in January, the Bishop will invite clergy and others to engage in a Bible challenge based on Marek P. Zabriskie's book. Mariclar signed on to the Bishop's letter calling on President-elect Trump to disavow the acts of intolerance that have been committed since the election.

Stewardship campaign for 2017. After in-gathering on Sunday, November 13, we have received 16 pledges. We have lost four pledging units over the past year to graduations/moves, which may lead to a short-fall up to $5000. Many units that have submitted a pledge increased annual pledge. Many pledges are outstanding; everyone is reminded to submit pledge forms.

Self-Audit Recommendations. Scott reported on the self-audit completed by Carol Chason and Joanne Kellerman. Additional people are needed to count the Sunday plate after church. Carol volunteered to assist. Holman, Sally and Frank also volunteered to count on a regular basis. Mariclar is going to ask others. It was recommended that we require a second check signer for unbudgeted expenses over $1000. Sally Hillman Redman, People's Warden, will be added as a signer on the bank account as per our bylaws. We should create and maintain a list of assets. Vanessa moved that we accept the report and thank Carol and Joanne. The audit was approved.

Treasurer's Report. Frank presented the treasurer's report for October. The report is positive. The plate is good, reflecting strong attendance. The rental income is increasing. The report was accepted.

Episcopal Community Services Christmas Campaign. Mariclar asked if we want to continue to participate in the ECS Christmas campaign. Mariclar recommended that we sponsor 20 children. The group agreed.
Seasons of Love Cabaret. Sally provided updates. Holman asked the Bearded Ladies to donate the sound system and they agreed. Aaron created the poster/advertisement. We will add to the poster that the proceeds would be shared with the Nationality Service Center.

Shakespeare in the Park workshops. Frank updated us that the workshops will be held on two Saturdays, December 10 and 17. The goal is to get people excited about participating in summer Shakespeare in the Park performance.

Mariclair led the Vestry in closing prayer.

December 20, 2016

Mariclair led the Vestry in a prayer.

Sanctuary opportunity at the University of Pennsylvania. Ann Farnsworth met with the Vestry to discuss opportunities for St Mary’s to support vulnerable students at Penn. DACA provides residency status to students who entered the US as children. Penn has chosen to admit DACA participants and offer them financial aid packages. Ann asked St Mary’s to consider reaching out to students to offer to be a sanctuary for their families if they face deportation. If we made this offer, we would need to be prepared to meet this need if it arose, which would mean that the family would live here 24/7 and be unable to leave. We could also consider an inter-faith approach/partnership to meet this need. Mariclair has spoken with the Bishop and Chancellor about this possibility. The discussion included the effect on the Nursery School, insurance, physical capacity of the church plant, and oversight.

A concern was raised that this would be limited to members of the Penn community when there are many people in the West Philly community who may be in need. Ann indicated that she would be open to more broad eligibility, but we are a small community and have limited means to address this need. Other parishes are prepared to serve this role in a larger way. Many students at Penn are from other places and offering this would help them by allowing their families to be near. Mariclair asked the Vestry to consider whether there is interest in considering this idea. Holman noted that St Mary’s has provided sanctuary during the Vietnam War and it is logical to limit our scope to the families of Penn students. We have a special connection to Penn’s campus. Ann added that we want to support families who would be affected by the canceling of DACA, connected to Penn and the West Philly community. There are larger community/resources through Penn that we could draw upon if we decide to do this. Vanessa mentioned the alienation of students who are in school and not citizens. Mariclair suggested we consider proposing this as a Deanery project for our entire Deanery. Ann indicated this is different from the official New Sanctuary movement in Philadelphia. Vanessa said that it does not need to be mutually exclusive to include Penn students in addition to the larger community. Ann said that it is not clear that the St Mary’s physical plan would support this need and if not, she would like to work with
the Vestry to develop a group of churches in the West Philly community that could be open to meeting with Penn students to make this offer. There is some pressing need to be proactive, since DACA could be cancelled at the beginning of the new presidential term. A concern was raised about unwanted public exposure if we make this offer. It was noted that if our church/churches aren’t willing to take this risk, who will? We agreed that more discussion was warranted and it was agreed to devote considerable time during the January 24 vestry meeting to make a decision.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

**Bishop’s Bible Challenge.** Bishop has invited our Diocese to participate in a Bible challenge beginning January 1. The challenge can be accessed via the Bishop’s Bible Challenge App, to become available mid-December.

**Great job on coat drive, ECS sponsorships, and Nativity Pageant!**

**2017 Budget.** Scott presented the summary of pledges and other revenue. Proposed carry forward budget for 2017 with some planned increase in building revenue and parking spaces. In terms of expenses, there was some reduction in insurance costs due to changes in the diocese plan. Small raises to Gonzalo, Mariclair and David were recommended. The budget overall has a $1000 deficit. Vanessa moved that we accept this budget as the working budget for the coming month and work to increase expected income by asking congregation to increase pledges. Unanimously approved.

**Amahl and the Night Visitors/Fundraising Process.** David Shunskis fronted the cost for the event. He will recoup his expenses through ticket sales and any profit over expenses will come to the church for outreach. Moving forward, fundraisers will be discussed first in Vestry and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report.** Frank presented the report through November. We have approximately a $15,000 deficit as of November, but we anticipate this deficit will be reduced by year’s end through pledges, annual appeal, and investment income. The report was approved.

Vanessa raised the issue that we have some new members with very young children. We may need to think about nursery care, which could be volunteer. It would be helpful if the church had a sound system that would allow people who are staying with children outside the sanctuary to hear the service. We would need to take insurance issues into account if we have volunteers caring for other people’s children and we need to adhere to safe church practices. We will consider this issue in the future.

The meeting was closed with prayer.
January 24, 2017

Mariclar led the Vestry in a study of Matthew 25:31-46. The December minutes were approved as amended.

Seasons of Love tickets. Tickets are available from Sally. The auditions are on Saturday, January 28. Planning is coming along well.

Housing Allowance Resolution. The Vestry must annually approve a housing allowance for the Rector. The resolution was approved.

Treasurer’s Report and 2017 Budget Approval. Frank presented the 2016 treasurer’s report. Income: Building revenue fairly constant. Investment income varies in a narrow range. Expenses: We had more organ maintenance than budgeted although building maintenance/repair was lower than expected. Personnel right in line with budget. We ended the year in the black.

2017 budget approval. Last month, the proposed budget was not balanced. Since that time our anticipated income has increased due to additional pledges and the proposed budget is balanced. The budget was approved.

Discussion of St. Mary’s role in immigration and undocumented persons, referring back to our study of Matthew 25:31-46. How can St. Mary’s be a witness for undocumented individuals in our community? Mariclar opened the discussion with a request that we think about the resources that God has provided to us to use and what we are called to do with these resources. Sally shared documents including statements that Penn has made and resources that Penn has made available. Mariclar reported on her discussions with the pastor at Tabernacle United Church, which is a partner church in the New Sanctuary Movement. Tabernacle decided to be part of this movement, but not to house people. The New Sanctuary Movement has trained church members in community organizing, advocacy and action. Vanessa suggested we invite a representative from the New Sanctuary Movement to come to talk to us at brunch or a Vestry meeting. We talked about the importance of advocacy of our legislators generally. We could develop talking points related to immigration. The Vestry supported Mariclar meeting with the DACA students to find out more about what they need and want. The Vestry also supported inviting representative from the New Sanctuary Movement to come to Sunday brunch at St Mary’s so we can learn more about what it means to be a partner church. After gathering this information, we can decide how involved we are able to be, and the best way to demonstrate our support for the movement. Vanessa made a motion that we form a social justice working group to focus on immigration and other issues. We will invite Ann Farnsworth to help form this working group and Holman Massey agreed to be the Vestry member representative.

Mariclar led the Vestry in a closing prayer.

Scott Wilds, Rector’s Warden | scottwilds@aol.com
Cook’s Corner

Marcella’s Classic Cartwheels

One of the early print food giants in my life was Craig Claiborne who, from the late 1950’s through the late 80’s, was variously the food editor, writer, and restaurant critic for the New York Times. He compiled the big blue NYT Cookbook that sat in my mother’s kitchen as well as several collections of his columns with recipes. In one of those books Craig introduced me to Marcella Hazan who was the original Lidia Bastianich. Marcella was born in northern Italy and married a New Yorker; when she moved back to the States with him she began giving cooking lessons in her home kitchen which soon became legendary. She published her first book Classic Italian Cooking in 1973 and was championed by Craig; her pesto recipe in Craig’s first column collection is the one I still use. But I’ll save that one for summer.

Though I have no clear recollection I suspect someone gave me Marcella’s 1985 pasta calendar as a Christmas present, and I’m very glad they did. The calendar contained 12 detachable recipe cards that remain to this day clipped into the front of one of my many recipe binders. This is my take on her Ruote di Carro col Sugo di Salsicci, Panna, e Pomidoro; I would not dare say mine is better than the original lest she come back and haunt me, but merely that it’s more to my taste.

The ingredients are: ½ - ¾ pound Italian sweet sausage, 2 Tbsp. olive oil, ½ onion diced, 1 tsp. minced garlic, 14 oz. crushed tomatoes, ½ - ¾ cup heavy cream, salt & freshly ground pepper to taste, 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley, 1 lb ruote di carro (pasta cartwheels), and freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese.

Slice the sausage into discs ¼ inch thick; freezing the sausage for an hour in advance helps with the slicing. Put the olive oil and onion into a 12in. skillet and turn the heat on to medium. Cook until the onions begin to soften and add the garlic, cooking for 1 min. Add the sliced sausage, turning them from side to side until they are browned about 15 mins. making sure the onions do not stick and burn. Add the tomatoes and cook uncovered, stirring occasionally, adjusting the heat so they cook at a gentle simmer.

After about 20 mins. when the fat separates from the other juices and floats free, add the cream and turn up the heat. Cook for 1 to 2 mins, stirring frequently, until the sauce is reduced. Add salt and pepper to taste. Turn off heat and stir in parsley. Cook pasta in abundant salted water. When it is tender but firm to the bite, drain and toss immediately with the sauce. Serve at once with grated cheese on the side. The sauce may be prepared several hours in advance. It should be reheated gently when the pasta is almost cooked.

The smaller quantities above are Marcella’s; the larger (including a full 14 oz. of crushed tomatoes) are my own. Marcella used a mere 2/3 cup of chopped plum tomatoes which does not make enough sauce to my taste; the onions are my addition since I cannot make tomato sauce without them. If you find you are burning the onions by the time the pork is cooked, try browning the pork first; it’s no big deal. As my mother would say, “Bon appetit.”

Martin Bodtman | marbodt@aol.com
Treasurer’s Report

Quarter in Review

Thanks to your faithful stewardship, a decline in utility costs, among other factors, you can see below that we have a budget that is less than a thousand dollars more than last year and is based on conservative assumptions for the year ahead.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Mary’s Hamilton Village, Operating Budget</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2016 Actual</th>
<th>2017 Budget</th>
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<td>REVENUE</td>
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<td>Congregational Giving</td>
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<td>Altar Guild Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>253,649</strong></td>
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<td>EXPENSES</td>
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<td>Altar Guild Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>252,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>249,873</strong></td>
<td><strong>250,687</strong></td>
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As always, please try to keep current on your pledge.

Frank Innes, Treasurer | finnes@alum.drexel.edu
Mark Your Calendars

Tuesdays until May 9th
Low Mass with Healing Prayers and Anointing resumes
In the St. Philip’s Chapel at 12:15pm

Thursdays until April 20th
Candlelight Compline, 8pm
in the sanctuary, followed by
Coffee and Conversation

* 

Sunday, February 5th – Sunday, March 26th
Youth Confirmation Class
in the library, from 12:30pm-1:30pm
(from 1pm-2pm on March 19th)

Thursdays during Lent
Mid-week Lenten Program with UniLu
6pm Stations of the Cross, 6:30pm Dinner
7-8pm Study of the Gospel of John.
8-8:15pm Compline
Program will alternate between St. Mary’s sanctuary and UniLu’s Parish Hall, beginning on Mar 9th at UniLu.

Thursday, March 9th
NO Candlelight Compline
due to Penn Spring Break

Tuesday, March 14th
The Franklin Quartet performing
Haydn’s "Seven Last Words of Christ"
7:30pm in the sanctuary – free and open to all!
“The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross”

Sunday, March 19th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
Please bring your favorite dish to share!

Tuesday, March 28th
Vestry Meeting, 7pm

Friday, April 7th
Deadline for Easter Flower Donations

Sunday, April 16th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
Please bring your favorite dish to share!

Monday, May 15th
PENN COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, May 21st
St. Mary’s Annual Meeting, 12:30pm
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
Please bring your favorite dish to share!

Tuesday, May 23rd
Vestry Meeting, 7pm

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 9th: Palm Sunday – 11am mass
April 11th: Holy Tuesday - 12:15pm
Rite I mass (in St. Philip’s Chapel)
April 12th: Holy Wednesday – 7pm
Dinner Church at St. Mary’s
April 13th: Maundy Thursday – 7pm
Mass with Foot washing at St. Mary’s

April 14th: Good Friday - 12pm
Good Friday Liturgy at St. Mary’s & 7pm at UniLu
April 15th: Easter Vigil w/ Confirmations – 8pm at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral
April 16th: Feast of the Resurrection – 11am at St. Mary’s
# March 2017

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<td>8pm Compline</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am Worship &amp; Church School</td>
<td>12:15pm Low Mass w/ Healing &amp; Anointing</td>
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<td>6pm Lenten Program @ UniLu NO Compline</td>
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<td>Penn Spring Break ends</td>
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<td>12:15pm Low Mass w/ Healing &amp; Anointing</td>
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<td>8pm Gatherings</td>
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<td>11am Worship &amp; Church School Third Sunday Brunch</td>
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<td>6pm Lenten Program @ UniLu 8pm Compline</td>
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<td>6pm Lenten Program @ St. Mary's 8pm Compline</td>
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<td>7pm Community Square Dance</td>
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**April 2017**
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- 12:15pm Low Mass w/ Healing & Anointing
- Penn Spring Term Ends
- Penn Commencement
- 7pm Community Square Dance
- 7pm Vestry

- Annual Meeting
- Third Sunday Brunch
News and Announcements

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

Shoes Shined Here!
St. Marian John Ash has generously offered to shine shoes and boots to benefit the organ restoration fund - $3 for shoes, $4 for boots. Simply drop off your shoes or boots in need of polishing on Sunday morning, and pick them up the following Sunday looking shiny and spiffy. Talk to John after mass to arrange for drop off or ask any questions!

Worship Volunteers needed
You can help make mass happen! Are you interested in helping with services? We especially need ushers and acolytes. Please contact Anna at 215-386-3916 or administrator@stmarysatpenn.org if you would like to help!

Sunday School Update

This Epiphany and Lent four of are Sunday School pupils are preparing for confirmation with Mother Marian. Each pupil has an adult mentor who is not that pupil’s parent. The goal is for each to be confirmed at the Cathedral at Easter Vigil.

Of course, they are also coming to Sunday School, and this Epiphany we have been focusing on the Gospel lectionary readings from Matthew instructing the disciples on what discipleship entails. This theme dovetails with the discernment they are undertaking in confirmation class. Our students are engaged and lively. Our materials provide us with the resources we need for age-appropriate analysis of the readings and for reflection. We have looked at what it means to be the salt, to let God’s light shine through us, to go the extra mile and to turn the other cheek.

Our materials have helped us think about what these images would have denoted to the disciples with Jesus and how we can apply these teachings in our own lives. We have also discussed that mistakes and failures are part of the human condition and that God loves us as we are, the good and the bad, and that striving prayerfully to love our enemies and forgive them changes us and the way we interact with the world.

Please pray for our confirmation class and its members: Nellie, Siobhan, Matondo and Michael as they continue to prepare and discern what God is calling them to this season and going forward towards adulthood.

Vanessa Albert Lowry | lowryv@glaw.com
Gratitude and a Question

*Seasons of Love* was great success on many different levels. First, the cabaret was a delightful performance that highlighted love in its many different forms. Second, it introduced St. Mary’s to many new people. I received many positive comments about our dedication to inclusion. Finally, it achieved its goal as a profitable fundraiser.

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it took a parish to put on *Seasons of Love*.

My thank you list is a long one:

- Thank you to Tori Healy for giving us the idea of a love-themed cabaret.
- Thank you to the Vestry for approving the pitch for the cabaret by Max Redman.
- Thank you to Aaron Todd and Janet Deatrick for their amazing publicity campaign including banners, flyers, tickets and more!
- Thank you to Scott Wilds for his ability to build and light our festive Valentine stage.
- Thank you to Scott Wilds, Janet Dietrick, Robin Foster-Drain and others for selling blocks of tickets.
- Thank you to Martin Bodtman and his merry band of bakers and punch makers!
- Thank you to Max Redman for recruiting many of his Candlelight Theatre friends to sing in the show and for doing the Master of Ceremonies duties during the show.
- Thank you to David Snyder for his fabulous piano playing for our talent.
- Thank you to Molly Dougherty, Pattie Duncan, Jerene Good, Matrė Grant, Brooke Yanovich, and David Shunskis for sharing their musical talents.
- Thank you to John Ash and Janet Deatrick for handling the ticket sales.
- Thank you to Carol La Belle and Joan Spellman for welcoming everyone and handing out programs.
- Thank you to Patrick O’Brien for his help with set up and clean up for the reception.
- Thank you to Mother Mariclair Partee Carlsen for her constant support and wise counsel throughout.

Finally, thank you to Megan O’Brien for representing the Nationalities Service Center. She reminded us of the needs of refugees and immigrants right here in Philadelphia.

While we are going to send a check to the Nationalities Service Center from *Seasons of Love*, I would like us to have a conversation about what we can do next as a parish to support the 5,000 clients from 100 countries that the NSC works with every day. I see our continuing support of the Nationalities Service Center as one way to show our gratitude to the Lord for all the blessings in our lives as citizens in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

*Sally Hillman Redman, People’s Warden | sally.h.redman@gmail.com*
Community Outreach

Working toward Social Justice Committee

Holman Massey and Ann Farnsworth-Alvear are co-chairing a St. Mary’s committee on Working toward Social Justice, and they are seeking both recruits and ideas. Holman remembers St. Mary’s in the 1970s, when political activism was central to our life as a community, so he sees today as a moment of rekindling and reconnecting. He remembers, for example, sessions that happened regularly at St. Mary’s and were organized around the idea of asking a person to “inform yourself.”

Perhaps a rekindled committee can start its work with a series of informative workshops. This might mean inviting a person who is able to answer questions so that we can begin to chart a course for ourselves, toward a specific area of engagement. If you are interested in being a part of this work or shaping its direction, please write Holman or Ann.

At Third Sunday Brunch on Feb. 19th, a group of St. Marians talked together about how to reach out to refugees and to undocumented immigrants, many of whom are feeling fear and anxiety now. One concrete idea was to supplement the sign that Mother Mariclair has hung up with another in multiple languages, emphasizing welcome. Another idea was to learn more about how we can link up with other organizations that are working now to serve and advocate for vulnerable groups.

What aspects of the social injustice our world is living moves you the most? Where do you want more information as part of enabling action?

Ann Farnsworth-Alvear  |  farnsworthalvear@gmail.com
Holman Massey  |  hcmassey@gmail.com
Student Stewardship

Finding Purpose and Community

My name is Sophia Reeder, and I am a Cradle Episcopalian. I don’t remember a time when my family wasn’t heavily involved with the church. When I was born, my dad was finishing his tenure with the Navy, and discerned a call to ministry. We lived in family-student housing at UC Davis while my dad (Thomas Reeder) studied theology and my mom (DeeAnn Reeder) finished her PhD in biology. I remember seeing my little brother (Liam) being baptized at the church we went to, the first Episcopal church I remember. When I was five years old we moved to Sewanee, TN, where my dad completed his seminary training and became an ordained deacon. We then moved to Ortega, FL, where my dad began his first job as a priest and I began my own Episcopalian training in earnest. I attended St. Mark’s, a private Episcopalian elementary school that was affiliated with my dad’s church. We went to chapel every Wednesday, and I was always so proud to tell everyone it was my dad leading the service. I sang in the church choir, and helped with Vacation Bible School.

However it wasn’t until we moved to Pennsylvania several years later that I became involved in the church in more than a cursory, my-family-always-goes kind of way. I attended Happening (A youth-centered, youth-run retreat) in the diocese of Central Pennsylvania (CPA). It was truly a transformative experience, both for my life in general and for my spiritual life. The friendships I made in that community will last forever. I continued attending CPA camps, summer and winter retreats, in the following years. I helped staff several Happening events, and even helped pioneer Vocare (the young adult tailored version of Happening) for our diocese. I attended the Episcopal Youth Event (a massive nationwide event that takes place every three years) in 2011. I also attended, as a non-voting delegate due to my age, the annual diocesan convention. In 2013 I was awarded a Spirit of the Diocese award, and have cherished it ever since.

Many of the formative memories of my childhood take place in Adjumani, Uganda, and later in Kajo-Keji, South Sudan, following my parents around while they worked. When I was younger most of my days were spent playing with the other children, not questioning why some of them were in wheelchairs after polio infection, or had stunted growth due to high parasite loads. As I grew older, and became fascinated by biology, my eyes were opened to the disparities in disease (among other things) I saw when playing with my Ugandan and Sudanese friends, as opposed to at home in Pennsylvania. I started volunteering at the St. Morgan’s Maternal and Child Health Care Centre, in Kajo-Keji. I was shocked to discover the lack of understanding about the infections we saw the most often, their transmission cycles, and how they cause the biological devastation that they do. This was the origin of my passion for research on these neglected infections. Since then I have worked towards a career in infectious disease biology and immunology, with the goal of preventing, treating, and ultimately eradicating neglected tropical diseases, from Malaria to Chagas Disease.
To that end, for my undergraduate degree I double majored in Biology and French, one to better understand infectious disease, and the other to better understand the world, and cultures other than my own. As I pursue my PhD in Immunology at the University of Pennsylvania, I am also enrolled in the Public Health Certificate Program. I chose to apply for the PHCP because I believe that science is too often conducted in a vacuum, and it can be far too easy to lose sight of what we are really working towards.

When I moved to Philadelphia I searched for Episcopal churches in the area, and was drawn to the message of inclusion and diversity, as well as the vibrant community and their dedication to community service that I found at St. Mary’s. I look forward to many more years of serving God with this community!

Sophia Reeder  |  sophiamr@mail.med.upenn.edu
Our Historical Treasures

Bernard Heatherley and the Nave Lamps

The nave or main area of the church containing the pews are illuminated by eight beautiful lamps hanging from the timber ceiling. You probably have never given them a second thought. The design of the lamps has two allusions to the Virgin Mary: four fleurs-de-lis at the top and a lovely lily pattern around the top and bottom edges of the cylindrical shape of each lamp. How these exquisite lamps came to be here is a fascinating story.

Late last spring, Paul Stimson, the son of the Rev. William Burnham Stimson, who was Assistant Rector from 1934 to 1936 then Rector from 1936 to 1941, paid us a visit one Sunday and wrote back to Mariclar:

I was reminded of a bit of history which may not be on record: the origin of the lamps that hang in the nave. In the late 1930s my father befriended a young blacksmith named Bernard Heatherly. He lived a block from the church at about 3820 Locust with wife Marjorie and daughter Joan, and had his forge at about 3815 Irving. I conjecture that he was struggling to earn a living in those bleak years, and my father engaged him to fabricate the lamps. Whence the funding I have no idea, of course, but I enjoyed watching it happen.

From Mr. Stimson’s recollection and some searching on Google, I learned quite a lot about the maker of the lamps. Bernard Heatherley was born in London, England in September of 1900, and by the early 1930’s, he had established a metalworking shop at 3811 Irving Street -- just two blocks from the Church. According to the 1940 Census, he lived at 3828 Locust Street, just down the street from the Church, with his wife Marjorie, his 11-year-old daughter Joan, and 1-year-old son Richard.

A search of the parish archives did not yield any details of when the lamps were installed or how they were purchased, but a ledger entry from August 4, 1937 indicates that he was paid $50.00 for “Repairing and cleaning lights”. From this we can deduce that the lamps were installed in 1936 or early 1937.
Vestry Minutes from April 10, 1939 state that “Mr. Heatherley’s request for permission to paint the wood work of the choir men’s room, without cost to the Church, was granted”, and minutes from February 1940 include a two-page single-space, typed letter from him to Mr. King, the Rector’s Warden, “in reply to a complaint – made by Miss Gardiner ... of disturbance to her school by the children in the Church Schools and of impertinence of the part of several of them.” Apparently, his daughter was among the accused, and living and working near the church, he had much to say on the matter. Here are some excerpts.

... I do not believe that an all embracing reputation for bad behavior should be put upon these girls unless somebody is in a position to show that offenses like the above have been committed consistently over a long period. ... I may not be in step with the majority but I am in favor of our people – especially the children – bringing their laughter and play to the precincts of the church and using it. In thus getting the church to be the center of their daily lives, I believe we are coming closer to doing God’s work than by maintaining empty buildings that are beautiful examples of housekeeping, and showing them only Sunday long faces.

Thus, Heatherley was an active member of the parish as well as an accomplished craftsman. My Google research uncovered quite a bit about his accomplishments as a metalworker. The Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City has eight drawings of lawn furniture that Heatherley made in the 1930’s, and Henry McIlhenny, collector, connoisseur and successively curator, trustee and chairman of the board at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, commissioned wrought iron railings, lawn chairs, and an exterior lantern for his residence in Germantown during the same time frame. In 1933, he wrote a series of articles on wrought metalwork for Pencil Points: A Journal for the Drafting Room. In 1938, he created balconies, gates, and a grand staircase for the Berwind-Purcell House, in Longview, WA, a prominent 10,000 sq. ft. two-story Late 19th and 20th Century French Renaissance Revival residence. In 1951, the Reno Gazette-Journal from Reno, Nevada, published an announcement of a lecture and exhibit of watercolor paintings with this summary of his career:

Mr. Heatherley is known in the east, notably in Philadelphia, Pa., and Rochester, N.Y., as an authority on art, the crafts and architecture, having lectured at the University of Pennsylvania and to professional and cultural groups in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Rochester. He is known nationally for his wrought iron work and his writings on this craft and holds an award from the Philadelphia Art alliance in the field of wrought iron design.

Father Stimson’s generosity to Bernard Heatherley helped his family to weather the Great Depression and for him to continue as an artist. Heatherley was a neighbor, artisan, and active participant in the life of the parish. Heatherley created clock below as a gift to Father Stimson, and his son Paul has it in his home as a constant reminder of his family’s time at St. Mary’s.
Parishioner Profile: Lorraine Jackson

Lorraine turned 94 on Feb 19th, and it is always a pleasure to spend some time with her and hear her memories of her life so far, including over half a century at St. Mary’s, Hamilton Village.

You are a Southerner like me; how did you come to live in Philadelphia?

“I was born in Selma, Alabama, but my family lived out on a farm outside of the city. My father farmed, and also he would lead hunting parties of local men and I would come along and cook the meals. We lived in a house my father built with his own hands, and the house is still there- I think sometimes about buying it and fixing it up, but you can’t dwell on going back. It wasn’t easy back then, but I loved my family. There was only a grade school for us and we would walk there and back every day, miles each way. They only had a bus for the white children, and when we’d walk on the road that bus driver would run us off into the ditch, and I’d see those children in the windows just laughing- there wasn’t a high school, so some ladies from the county put together a 4H club, and that’s where I learned how to sew. I had my own shop in Philadelphia for many years, sewing fine clothes.

I came to Philadelphia on a Greyhound Bus, and I got off at the station on Filbert Street at 3 in the morning and had no idea where I was, and nobody was there to meet me. I was coming to live with my aunt in Sharon Hill, and finally a taxi driver saw me waiting, so he drove me out until we could find her house. I had no idea where I had come to! That was on May 23rd of 1943.
I met my husband, Jack, not too long after. He was an old man (laughs), old enough to be my father, and we got married in 1944. We were married for 54 years, and we bought a house at 4012 Locust Street, it must have been in 1945, sometime around then. Later the University bought the house and all the others on the block, and built the Dental School. My oldest daughter Karen was born in the house, we waited too long to go to the hospital, and had to call the police, and the police man was afraid to put me in his car we had waited so long! He drove down to the hospital and brought a doctor back up- so I had her at home, with a doctor there."

And how did you come to be members of St. Mary’s Hamilton Village?

“My daughter Kathy was born not too long after, and my husband had a daughter from his first marriage, so there I was taking three little girls all the way across the city to 1831 Bainbridge Street, to the St. Mary’s church there. It was the Black church, and that was where I was confirmed and we were married. We always had white priests, and after we had been there a while Father Little came to us from Boston. Once he realized I was coming all the way from 40th and Locust to Bainbridge and 18th, and making the trip with three little children, he found me a church close to home- we started at Our Savior, but they said they had met their quota on Black people. Bishop DeWitt was involved at our St. Mary’s- I call Bainbridge Street “1831” and our St. Mary’s “St. Mary’s”- so he told Fr. Little that we would come here, and it was right across the street. I have so many memories from over the years in this place- once the bishop called me with a day’s notice and needed dinner for 100 seminarians, and I did it right here in the parish hall.

I have a lot of memories in this place- and we had many years with Father John Scott (rector of St. Mary’s for 35 years), he was a good man. We visited him and Fran, his wife, until they both died, and I’ll be buried right next to them in the Woodlands. Good company! Somedays on a Sunday, I sit in this church, and I look around and I can see the faces of all the people I have known and loved in this place, who are gone now, but I feel them here, surrounding me. It’s beautiful to be surrounded by them all!”

Thank you for sharing your memories with our readers!

Lorraine Jackson was interviewed by Mother Mariclair in February 2017, days before her 94th birthday.
Did you know that you can make a donation to St. Mary's online safely and securely?

Go to www.stmarysatpenn.org and click on the “Support St. Mary’s” tab to make a one-time donation - recurring donation function coming soon!

A Prayer for Spring

God of Creation, we lift our hearts to you as we travel with Our Lord Jesus Christ through the lengthening light of this season. Guide us, we pray, as we walk in prayer and penitence during the dark days of Lent, prepare our hearts for the resurrection promise of the empty tomb in the Great Fire of Easter, and open our minds and spirits to bask in the golden light of your grace and love as we yearn to cry to you once again: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.