A Prayer for Winter

O God of all the seasons, of winter snows and springtime sun, kindle in our hearts the warmth of your love during these long dark days of cold, renew in us the energy to live out your Word in the world, and as we await your coming again, help us to celebrate with expectation and exhilaration the birth of your Son, God Made Flesh, come among us. Amen.
We have some occasions for being tempted into hopelessness these days. One is the much discussed migrant caravan travelling northward from South and Central America. I saw a photo essay of the children and their parents who make up a significant portion of this caravan, walking a thousand miles toward a country that is lobbing hate and fear at them, all so they can work the jobs we disdain, simply for the chance to live free of fear and persecution and crushing poverty. It was heartbreaking to see the faces of these children, some no more than infants, many the same age as my own toddler, and I also felt shame and helplessness. We have so much to atone for as Americans these days, and we have a chance on Tuesday, November 6th to participate in that act of civil resistance—so do honor to all those who came before us, and those parents who are carrying their babies over thousands of miles of fear and danger simply for the hope of a future—and vote.

How do we live in this reality?

I discussed this with an elder earlier this week, about what he had learned in his many years on this planet. We talked about what the hope is for the world today, and we settled on prayer:

prayer for those we love, for those we are tempted to hate, for those engaged in waging war and evil, and for the stranger, widow, orphan, the powerless who are so easily forgotten or made pawns of politicians and pundits in our country—most of all.

We have a pretty good template for those prayers in our Baptismal Covenant, which we will reaffirm in just a moment, but it’s a little too long to fit in your pocket, so for that, I offer you a Prayer Attributed to St Francis. Let it be often on your lips and in your heart, so that it might infuse your entire being and push you toward action, not despair:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; Where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The reverend mariclair partee carlsen | rector@stmarysatpenn.org

Worship Notes

Hey- this mass sounds a little different. What’s going on?

During the season of Advent, you might notice a few changes in the mass. This summer at the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church both Houses of Convention adopted a resolution that allows all congregations to use optional, expansive-language versions of three Rite II Eucharistic prayers (A,B, and D) found in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. These changes are available for use, with permission of the diocesan bishop, until the completion of the next comprehensive revision of the Prayer Book—whenever that might be. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Daniel GP Gutierrez, has given us his permission to use this revised liturgy during Advent.

These alternate expansive language prayers probably look a little tame to most St. Marians— for many years it has been the custom of this parish to use our own inclusive language adaptations in worship in order to honor and respect the dignity of all of our members. St. Mary’s Church makes every effort to make the language of our worship conform to our conviction that the nature of God embraces the full spectrum of human gender identities, and all people are equal in God’s sight. We take our bible readings and psalms from the New Revised Standard Version and sometimes the St. Helena Psalter, and these translations have been made with an eye toward accuracy and inclusivity. Some historical texts, like the Lord’s Prayer, and copyrighted materials such as hymns and anthems, are presented in their original form. In all of these texts we recognize and affirm all the dimensions of God’s boundless creative love which we can yet neither imagine nor express.

You will also notice that the Nicene Creed is slightly different in this translation of Eucharistic Prayer B- it omits the “filioque clause”, the phrase referring to the Holy Spirit as proceeding “from the Father and the Son”. These words were added to the Creed in 589CE as a rebuke of the Arian heresy, and gradually grew in acceptance in the West, though it violated an agreement made at the Council of Chalcedon in 451CE. This was a major cause of the 1500 year old schism between Eastern and Western Christianity. This change was approved by the General Convention in 1994 for future revisions of the prayer book, following a directive from the Lambeth Conference in 1978, in order to better represent our theology of the Holy Spirit, and to heal the divide it created between the Churches of the West and the East.

The rev. mariclair partee carlsen | rector@stmarysatpenn.org
Deacon’s Notes

Pray, Fast and Act

Many of us make New Year’s Resolutions. Here is one for you! Starting in January, 2019 and lasting for 6 months, I invite and encourage you to Pray, Fast, and Act on the 21st day of each month. This began last year as an initiative of the Episcopal Advocacy Network and is part of our Presiding Bishop’s Beloved Community.

Why the 21st? The 21st of each month is when Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits run out for 90 percent of the population.

Fast in recognition of our own complicity, through action and inaction, in government policies that are not life-giving for all of God’s beloved people.

How do we fast? Fasting is an effort to clear our bodies, hearts, and minds from the distractions around us so that we may draw closer to God. The discipline of self-denial can help make us more aware of our abundance and understand, in some small way, what scarcity might feel like. You can fast from food, technology, social media, or television…or all of those things if you so desire.

Suggestions for Fasting

Begin your fast prayerfully, mindful of the blessings you may receive rather than the deprivations you may feel. Do not fast if you are sick, traveling, fasting, diabetic or have any other medical condition. Stay well-hydrated. Reduce your intake a day or so before the fast day and stop drinking carbonated beverages. If you can’t fast, consider these possibilities

- Fast only during daylight hours
- Fast from a single meal on the 21st and donate the money you saved on food
- Fast from solid food but drink fruit or vegetable juice.

What is the action? Each month there will be an advocacy theme. The theme may be poverty, immigration, anti-racism, anti-weapons, mass incarceration, climate, education or some other pertinent need. I will have a handout with some special prayers for the issue, facts about the issue and encourage you to call or write to your congress persons.

In addition, I invite you to join with me at Tuesdays with Toomey at his office at Second and Chestnut every Tuesday from 12:20 to around 1:00 pm. I am there most Tuesdays, although I miss one every now and then. This is a gathering of persistent people who have met every Tuesday for 2 years now and who encourage Senator Toomey to vote for legislation that promotes justice, peace and dignity for all people. Each week features speakers who are advocates for many different issues and one person in the group hand delivers letters to Senator Toomey (he is never there).

Are there symbols for the fast? I invite people to wear a burlap wrist band on the day you fast as a reminder to yourself (they will be available after the New Year). Burlap represents the sackcloth worn by Jewish people in their time of lamentation.

As we go along… I will invite people who desire to briefly write or speak about their experience of fasting.

Pray. Pray for those who are suffering and pray that we may work for the common good.
Continued

Gracious and Loving God, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth. Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good: for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

If you have any questions or comments, please ask.

Peace and blessings,
Barbara

The Reverend Deacon Barbara Tobin | deacon@stmarysatpenn.org
Notes from the Office

Welcome to the Winter 2018 issue of the St. Mary’s Newsletter! Winter, for many, is a nudge to remind us to reflect on our lives and reconnect with the people we love. It’s as if the chill in the air serves to bring attention to the fact that, in all of us, there is an invincible summer. Given how loving and inclusive the St. Mary’s community is, I’d say we enjoy summer all year long! Though we are cozily up to read nowadays with a hot chocolate by the fire instead of a chilled Mai Tai by the pool, rest assured that our newsletter still contains the same wonderful content- There is something for everyone to enjoy!

Is there something else you’d like to see published? Please direct any suggestions or content ideas for future newsletters to Sally Hillman Redman, sally.h.redman@gmail.com. We always appreciate hearing about ways we can maintain enthusiasm within our community!

I invite you to take a glimpse at all of our upcoming community events and opportunities for outreach this season. There are so many chances to engage!

Have a blessed and abundant Winter, St. Marians. Happy reading!

Brittany Holdahl | administrator@stmarysatpenn.org

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Historical Treasures

This is a contemporary account of the completion of the tower in 1907 from The Churchman, a weekly national magazine on the Episcopal Church:

New Tower at St. Mary’s, Hamilton Village, Penn.

There has just been completed by Mr. William H. Wetherill a handsome stone tower and spire at St. Mary’s church, Hamilton Village, Philadelphia, 18 feet square at the base and 110 feet high. In a room just below the spire there has been hung the church’s original bell, cast in 1858. On the wall of this room there is a tablet which has this inscription: “To the glory of God, in loving memory of Harry Flickner West, who died Jan. 3, 1906, this spire is erected by his lifelong friend.” There is a city ordinance which prohibits chimes unless the towers are higher than surrounding properties, and the residents do not object. Mr. Wetherill will endeavor to obtain the consent of those living near by and then place a fine chime in the tower. It was formally dedicated by Bishop Coleman on Sunday morning, Oct. 20. Mr. Wetherill expects before long to honor the memory of his sisters by handsome windows in the church.

The Churchman, November 2, 1907, p. 685


Frank Innes | finnes@alum.drexel.edu
Dear Fellow St. Marians,

I have spent the first few months of my term prayerfully reflecting what my role is in serving as People’s Warden, what my primary goals should be, and how these goals would best be realized. It is my understanding that as People’s Warden, I am responsible to the People and serve the People, particularly in the following ways:

Listening

to the People (I understand this term broadly to be the Parish, the neighborhood, the campus, the world), to the Rector, to the Spirit calling us in and binding us to ministry here

to assure that the needs, concerns and ideas of the People have an avenue to be heard and responded to by the Rector and the Vestry

to assist the Rector and Vestry in responding to the needs, concerns and ideas of the People

Growing and Rightly Using the Resources of the Parish for Ministry

to understand, and to help optimize the growth and development of the Parish’s resources in order to use the resources to minister to the People and the broader world

these resources include our physical property, our investments and our people’s time, energy, talents and monetary pledges

Responding

work with the Rector, the Vestry and those of the People called to serve to meet the needs of the Parish and to bring God’s love to the world

I believe in the abundance of God’s love and in grace and I think that one way to allow God’s grace into our work is through open-ended discussions about ministry. We held our first brainstorming session at Vestry this past month. Out of it came the beginnings of many ideas, because we all have them and, given the opportunity, grace often helps us express them. Out of this session grew two concrete ideas.

The first of these concrete ideas was to form groups to share a meal and a time for informal discussion at a parishioner’s house. Some call these “Foyer Groups.” Mother Marpclair and I agreed to work on hosting meals this Epiphany. I invite you to come share food and ideas at these events and to bring your families and friends. We do food and discussion well and this gift is to be shared.

The second is to host “family movie nights” aimed at families with young children whose parents often feel they have no way to socialize easily with other parents in the same position. We plan to host a Christmas Movie Night on Friday, December 14, 2018 at 6 p.m. with pizza and two short movies – A Charlie Brown’s Christmas and the Walt Disney version of A Christmas Carol. Please invite people!

I want to encourage you to offer your ideas, tell us your concerns and hopes.

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, December 2nd
First Sunday of Advent
11 AM Mass

Advent Formation Series
12:15 PM in Parish Hall, immediately following Mass

Advent Lessons and Carols
5 PM in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 9th
ECS (Episcopal Community Services) Christmas Deadline

Tuesday, December 18th
Las Low Mass of Fall Semester

Thursday, December 20th—Wednesday, January 16th
UPenn Winter Break
No Complines

Friday, December 14th
Family Movie Night
6 PM in Parish Hall
Join us for a movie, pizza, crafts, and other family fun! Showing: A Charlie Brown Christmas and A Mickey Mouse Christmas Carol. For information on how to pre-register, please send an email to administrator@stmarysatpenn.org or call (215) 386-3916.

Sunday, December 23rd
Decorating for Christmas after Advent IV Mass

Monday, December 24th
10 PM Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 25th
11 AM Christmas Day Mass

Worship Volunteers needed
You can help make mass happen!
Are you interested in helping with services as a lector, intercessor, acolyte, usher, or member of the altar guild?
Please contact Katherine at 215-386-3916 or administrator@stmarysatpenn.org if you would like to help!

Are you interested in helping out with our spectacular Sunday coffee hour? Contact Patrice Duncan at 215-472-2014 or at pattiedd@gmail.com.

Find St. Mary’s on Social Media

St. Mary’s Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/stmarysatpenn/
St. Mary’s Twitter:
https://twitter.com/StMarysatPenn/
St. Mary’s Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/stmarysatpenn/

Sponsor Altar Flowers

We invite you to sponsor the Sunday altar flowers in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for life events! We suggest a donation of $40 which can be arranged through St. Mary’s. If
(Continued)

**Kitchen cleaning:** Sally pursued Stanley Cleaner’s. They came and did a test square, but the Vestry could discern no noticeable difference in the cleanliness of the tile. They quoted us for $600, but the Vestry does not feel this is worth it. Brittany has been working to identify a cleaning service that would clean the church’s oven but has so far been unsuccessful. She’ll continue to seek a proper cleaning service.

**Nursery Care report:** Vanessa reported on the first weeks of St. Mary’s nursery care. They’ve had between 2-4 children each week. There is now a consistent core of children who are cared for.

**Commercial dishwasher:** A new one costs $5,000 - $8,000. UTO grant application open December – March. Sally will be looking into this once the grant application is open. UTO grants look to support innovation within mission and ministry. This would require the bishop’s endorsement as grants are given per diocese. A UTO grant could cover more extensive renovations in the kitchen.

**Action**

**Treasurer’s report:** Frank provided a report through August. Aaron moved to approve, Karen seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Finance committee:** Vanessa moved that the vestry resolve that checks of over $2000 require two signatures from two authorized signatories with the exception being checks for specifically approved items in the operating or capital budget not in excess of $2000. These will not need two signatures. This shall include portions of clearly budgeted items. By way of example and not limitation for instance, checks paid for insurance coverage as budgeted. Sally seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Cassock for MPC:** Mariclar requires a replacement cassock and cincture. This would cost approximately $525 for cassock and $100 for the cincture. This would be covered by a surplus gained from Mariclar’s maternity leave. Sally moved, Vanessa seconded. Unanimously approved.

5. **Closing Prayer** – Mariclar

I think my role is to be one of the disciples who point out to Jesus that the people need food and then go out and make sure the 5000 are fed. I suspect that, just as many of the healing miracles occurred through the faith-move actions of those in need of healing, the miracle of feeding the 5000 came about through the faithful actions of those needing to be fed. I think we are all invited to participate in this miracle here and now.

Thank you.

**Vanessa Albert Lowry | lowryv@gtlaw.com**

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**Eco-Consciousness at St. Mary’s**

As we all know, one thing St. Mary’s does extremely well is its hospitality. We have an incredible, talented roster of volunteer cooks, bakers, and snack-bringers who make every Sunday special and inviting by providing food for all who walk through the door. This is one aspect that distinguishes St. Mary’s from other parishes.

But this hospitality comes at a cost in the waste that it generates. Every week we throw away a large quantity of paper plates and plastic cutlery. Let’s try to make our lunches even better by reducing the waste they generate. Some strategies include:

1) **Using the kitchen’s supply of ceramic plates and silverware** – Instead of using paper or plastic disposable plates and plastic silverware, we can use the existing supply of ceramic plates in the kitchen. This would require two weekly volunteers who would be willing to hand wash the dishes after church. I think our first goal could be to have dishwashers during the third-Sunday brunches. And if there is enough energy behind it, I don’t see why we couldn’t eventually use reusable dishes and silverware every Sunday! Not only would this greatly reduce our waste, but it would save the church some money in not having to purchase replacement disposable items. Also, wouldn’t it be nice to eat off of a real plate?? If interested in volunteering as a dishwasher, please let me know.

2) **Bringing your own reusable dish and silverware from home** – This requires a tiny amount of planning, but before you leave for church, think about bringing an old plastic to-go container and fork with you. This way, you’re not only reducing waste, but you’ve also got a handy container with you if you want to take some leftovers home. A win-win scenario! I must admit, I’m no shining example of this as I frequently forget. But even if you only remember to bring a container from home once a month, that’s definitely some progress.

3) **Recycling** – Unfortunately, food-soiled paper products cannot be recycled, but plastic and metal containers can be recycled if you wash and dry them first to remove food waste.

The University of Penn handles St. Mary’s trash and recycling. If you need a reminder as to what goes into the trash bin vs. the recycling bin, please go here:


(Continued on Following Page)
Eco-Consciousness at St. Mary’s

(Continued)

It can be confusing knowing what can be recycled and what should go in the trash. Certain items that seem like they should be recycled may actually end up damaging the machines used to process recycling. So, one key rule to remember: When in doubt, throw it out.

And here are some helpful, general recycling tips, courtesy of the Philly Inquirer:

Wash, rinse, and dry your plastics, aluminum, and steel containers. It is important to remove all food waste.

Absolutely, positively no plastic bags. You may think they are recyclable, but our facilities cannot process or remove them at the plant. Check instead with your local grocery store — many of them take plastic bags to be recycled, often into reusable bags.

Put a lid on your outdoor recycling can — wet paper, cardboard, and other wet materials cannot be processed. We now offer lids for city recycling bins at our Sanitation Convenience Centers.

Styrofoam is not acceptable; reuse it or put it in the trash.

Avoid products whose packaging might say they are recyclable, but in fact can’t be processed by our local plants. Hoses, cords, and electronics damage the equipment and are a potential hazard for workers.

Focus on aluminum and steel cans and plastic containers, which represent 75 percent of the value of the materials collected by the city, yet only make up 7 percent of what we see in curbside pickup. Currently, only about half of these materials end up in recycling bins, the other half in the trash. If we increase this amount, we’ll raise the value of the city’s materials significantly.

Aaron Todd | aaron.w.todd@gmail.com

ECS Forum on Justice

One of the amazing parts of our Pennsylvania Diocese is Episcopal Community Services, or ECS. Their mission is “to challenge and reduce intergenerational poverty” by increasing “the ability of people to improve their lives and achieve economic independence.” ECS staff and volunteers serve children in after school and tutoring programs, homeless men at Winter Shelter in Center City, offer life coaching for people in transition, and provide meals for frail adults and companions for isolated elders. In November they launched an after school program at Alain Locke School at 46th and Haverford Avenue, not so far from St Mary’s. Volunteer opportunities abound!

ECS holds one-day conferences annually that explore a single topic in depth. The 2017 forum focused on poverty and featured Dr. Kathryn Edin, a prominent sociologist and author of $2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America. I learned about how people slip through cracks and fall off the radar in our American economy.

Vestry Minutes

(Continued)

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
September 25, 2018, 7 – 8:30 PM

Present: Jonathan Ashton, The Rev. Mariclair Partee Carlsen, Frank Innes, Vanessa Albert Lowry, Sally Hillman Redman, Karen Stachelek, Aaron Todd (note taker)

Absent: Robin Foster-Drain, Sophia Reeder, Deacon Barbara Tobin

Spiritual Practice – Mariclair

Information

Approval of August Minutes: Frank moved and Sally seconded. Unanimously approved.

Diocesan Fund Grant Application/SMNS Update: Mariclair described the plans that the Growth Committee generated. The plan involves using a portion of the Parish Hall to construct a new, ADA accessible bathroom, storage for the SMNS, and a projection wall. During the next Growth Committee meeting, Sarto will present plans that would cost $30K, $50K, and $70K. If we receive the $30K grant, we may use this as a challenge to inspire parishioners to contribute to a campaign to spruce up the existing bathrooms. The vestry is supportive of this plan and looks forward to looking at specific budgets and final details for this project. We should think about other grants we can apply for, including United Thank Offering (UTO) grants and appeals to other Philly organizations. Mariclair and Sarto met with Traci Childress to share these plans and she was receptive.

Nursery School Assistant: Kia da Silva was hired to help care for the nursery school children on Sunday mornings, pending clearances.

Finance Committee: The committee members are Vanessa Albert Lowry, Scott Wilds, Frank Innes, and Rev. Mariclair Partee Carlsen (ex-officio). The finance committee had its inaugural meeting on September 19.

Discussion

Stewardship speakers needed: October 7 (Vanessa), 14 (Sally), 21 (Cassandra) 28 (Frank)

St. Mary’s Tag Sale: Voter registration table was fun and successful and drew a crowd. It was a good show of what we’re about. We should consider reinventing this event. The Tag Sale made about $300 for the church. The same people help out, and the wares sold are always the same. Instead, we could have a bake sale and offer information about the Church and its ministries. David could play the organ. Let’s continue to think about this for next year’s event.

Parking fundraiser?: We may consider charging Penn parents during move-in to park in the St. Mary’s lot.
Vestry Minutes

(Continued)

Diocesan Council Mission Grant: We did not get the grant for 2019. The diocese eliminated choral scholars programs from being funded. We do still have funding through Spring 2019. Canon Horner feels he may be able to get us an additional $5K which would carry us through 2020. The Bishop upgraded our campus ministry grant to $7K this year. We should receive a check in September. David is currently interviewing some replacement choral scholars. Jenny graduated and Peter was too busy this semester. So, two replacements are being sought.

Diocesan Growth Fund: The committee will meet on September 11 to share plans with Mariclair.

Nationalities Service Center backpack drive: We reached 22 filled backpacks that we can donate to the NSC.

Adult Formation Class: Barbara will coordinate a four-part series exploring the Episcopal Church’s origins. This series will take place after church on Sundays during the Advent season. Info on this will appear in the forthcoming newsletter. Barbara is open to covering specific topics if anyone has suggestions to contribute.

Church Nursery: Mariclair is seeking paid attendants to assist with caring for the children in the church nursery.

Parish Tag Sale: We’ve already received some donations. We will encourage parishioners to bring in their donations the Sunday prior (September 8).

Discussion

Welcome New Students BBQ: Third Sunday, September 16. Scott and Martin have volunteered to get the food. Mariclair will ask to borrow grills from Holman and Stan. More volunteers are always welcome.

Diocesan Convention: November 9 (night Eucharist) and 10 (all-day convention until 3pm). Representatives from St. Mary’s are needed. Registrants cost $75. Sophia went last year. Vanessa and Frank will accompany Mariclair and Barbara this year.

Church Threshold Repairs: Gonzalo is actively working on this and plans to finish it this week.

Metal Steps: The steps exiting the church from the kitchen need repair.

Action

Treasurer’s report: Frank provided a report through July. Sally moved to approve, Aaron seconded. Unanimously approved

Closing Prayer – Mariclair

ECS Forum on Justice

(Continued)

This October, I attended the 2018 Forum on Justice and Opportunity which focused on racism. Keynote speaker Dr. Derald Wing Sue, a professor at Columbia University, spoke about his long-term research on racial microaggressions against members of marginalized groups. He told of his own experience: being assumed to be foreign because of his appearance, although he was born in Oregon.

“You speak very good English.”

“Where were you really born?”

Dr. Sue cited Martin Luther King, Jr., who prayed that we all might repent for the silence of good people. I learned it is not enough to be non-racist: I need to move actively toward being anti-racist. First, get conscious of our own biases and see beyond the obvious. Next, never give racism a place to hide! Disempower innuendo by naming it!

"Ouch! That stereotype hurts!"

“Hey! That’s a racist remark.”

It is up to me to recognize my own silence and inaction as a kind of collusion. If I feel uncomfortable, imagine the feelings of the person who was the target of the remark. Once again I came away full of energy and spirit, and with practical ideas to try.

I bought a copy of Dr. Sue’s book Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race.

Watch for information on next year’s forum. I will see you there!

Jerene Good | Jerene49@gmail.com

🎵 Musical Notes 🎵

Music is one of the most beloved aspects of Christmas with familiar Carols warming our hearts and flooding our memories like a favorite Christmas tree ornament. Only music can speak directly to our inner selves and create that comfort zone that we associate with family and church at this blessed time of year. Of special interest will be the Christmas Eve Mass featuring soprano soloist Anjali Gallup-Diaz and guest instrumentalists.

The often-heard complaint that with the Advent “prohibition”, Christmas Carols are only “allowed” one or two Sundays before the Epiphany. Our answer is the Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday morning, December 30 when we will sing the cherished favorites to our heart’s content.

Winter can loom a bit dreary after the holiday ornaments are taken down and we will counteract the damp and cold of a Philadelphia winter with beautiful music. This year we will feature music by some of the great Anglican composers that define our heritage. Choir anthems and organ selections by William Byrd, Henry Purcell and Thomas Tallis will be featured during the Epiphany Season. The Choir will also be performing an original setting of the Lord’s Prayer by our own Thomas Ward.

A great bright spot in our musical life continues with the fine contributions of our Choral Scholars: Caitlin Froizee, Maryrose Murphy, Brian Akins and Evan Mc Clelland. Watch for their offerings of solos and duets at the Sunday morning Mass.

David Shunskis | music@stmarysatpenn.org
Cook’s Corner

A French Dish That Will Make Your Guests Do the Csárdás: “Cotes de Porc Hongroise”

Well folks, here comes another blast from the past. You have read me go on about Craig Claiborne of NY Times fame; well this recipe comes from one of his protégés, Pierre Franey. It appears in Franey’s book The NY Times 60-Minute Gourmet, first published in 1979. The goal of the book was to provide “complete recipes for delectable meals that can be prepared in less than one hour.” Here is one of my favorites. It is called “Cotes de Porc Hongroise” because it contains paprika and, to a French mind, paprika is associated with Hungary.

(Serves 4)

The ingredients are as follows:

- 4 loin pork chips, about 2 pounds worth;
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste;
- 1 tsp. paprika; 2 tsp. peanut vegetable, or corn oil;
- 3/4 cup finely chopped onion;
- 0.5 cup dry white wine;
- 0.5 cup heavy cream;
- 1 Tbsp. imported prepared mustard such as Dijon or Dusseldorf.

Like Julia Child before him, Pierre was a fan of dairy in all its forms and he had no compunctions about using heavy cream.

Instructions:

1) First you need to sprinkle the chops on both sides with salt, pepper, and the paprika.
2) Then heat the oil in a heavy skillet and add the chops. Cook about 10 minutes or until nicely browned on one side. Turn and cook 15 minutes longer.
3) Pour off the fat.
4) Then sprinkle the onion between the chops and cook briefly.
5) Remove the chops to a warm platter and cover with foil.
6) Add the wine to the skillet and cook, stirring, until the liquid is almost totally reduced.
7) Add the cream and cook over high heat about 5 minutes.
8) Remove from the heat and stir in the mustard.
9) Serve the chops with the sauce spooned over.

Those are the instructions straight from the book but in my experience the chops don’t take as long as he says to cook. Then again I don’t believe that food is poison, and I like my pork, be it chops or roast with some pink in the middle. “To each his own,” as my grandmother was fond of saying.

Vestry Minutes

(Continued)

Kitchen Update: Bob from UCHC volunteered to paint some trim. He cleaned and painted them. He asked that we consider how to repair some of the windows, which are a bit fragile. We will assess this as we go forward with the growth fund committee. Sally found the mystery china and washed it all; 42 large and small plates (not a small task!) now pristine and gorgeous. There is a set of mixed blue dishes, matching somewhat. There’s another mishmash set that we will sell during the tag sale. Sally looked into steaming the floor. Stanley Steamer has a $99 special that she is pursuing and will schedule soon. We will be fundraising for a new dishwasher. She is also working on scheduling a professional oven cleaning. The steps outside of the kitchen still need work before they can be tiled. Sally will follow up with Scott to move this along.

St. Mary’s Nursery School: A state mandate now requires that the St. Mary’s Nursery School (SMNS) have access to a restaurant-quality kitchen for lunch preparation. The kitchen they currently use on the 2nd floor doesn’t suffice. They are considering a proposal for MSNS to rent the church’s kitchen for $225/month.

Deacon’s Report:

UCHC: Sally, John, and Joan have been serving. Also, some international Penn students have been assisting.

Puentes de Salud: Callie Kennedy of Puentes de Salud, a community and health services organization serving the Latino population in South Philly, indicated that it would be helpful if St. Marians could donate snacks to Puentes de Salud. We ran an ad soliciting donations in the bulletin and will continue to do so.

Tag Sale/Voter Registration – September 15: Barbara will set up a voting registration table during the tag sale.

Narcan Training: Opioid addiction is a growing problem in Philadelphia. Barbara is working to coordinate a training. Anyone interested can sign up on the diocesan website. The training will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2018, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Gloria Dei Church.

Forum on Justice & Opportunity Conference: On Saturday, October 20, 8:30AM – 3PM, Episcopal Community Services will host a conference in which attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the compounded issues of poverty and initiate real world efforts to improve policy and practice. This year features Derald Wing Sue, PhD in a keynote about microaggressions and confronting our own biases and preconceptions in daily interactions. The event will take place at WHYY, 150 North 6th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Red Cross Blood Drive: University Lutheran Church is hosting a blood drive on September 26. Barbara has been in contact with the Red Cross. They indicated they don’t schedule blood drives until 3 months in advance, and they are now filled through November. We’ll pursue scheduling a blood drive in January 2019.
Vestry Minutes

(Continued)

Last Sunday for Gordon on July 29. Pattie has arranged for a small thank you celebration for Gordon at next week's coffee hour.

Mariclair's return on August 1. Katherine leaving August 18. She is moving back to Illinois to return to school.

Creating a Finance Committee. Scott will serve on the committee. Ginny Wayland is also willing, but isn't in Philly until November, and the Finance committee would like to meet in September. Another member is needed.

Discussion

Request for Space for an AA meeting: A Penn-affiliated person has asked if we could accommodate a regular meeting of an AA group; they indicated that they would pay. This seems like a wonderful idea if we have space. The sexton would need to be on site. We need to follow up with Katherine and seek approval from Mariclair.

Nationalities Service Center Backpacks: We will coordinate another backpack drive. Donations of back packs and school supplies will be accepted. Sally will ask Katherine to send out an email to the congregation soliciting supplies. Sally will make an announcement this Sunday.

Action

Treasurer's Report: We will soon be getting an additional, final payment of $15,000 from Sue Williams's Estate. Frank provided a report through June. Aaron moved to approve, Karen seconded. Unanimously approved.

Closing prayer – Sally

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
August 28, 2018, 7 – 8:30 PM

Present: Jonathan Ashton, The Rev. Mariclair Partee Carlsen, Frank Innes, Vanessa Albert Lowry, Sally Hillman Redman, Sophia Reeder, Deacon Barbara Tobin, Aaron Todd (note taker)

Absent: Robin Foster-Drain, Karen Stachek

Spiritual Practice – Mariclair

Information

Approval of July Minutes: Frank moved and Sally seconded. Unanimously approved.

Here's a side dish Pierre recommends with the pork chops; it’s for baked acorn squash.

You will need:
- 2 acorn squash;
- 2 Tbsp. butter;
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar;
- and salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste.

Instructions:
1) Preheat your oven to 400 degrees.
2) Split the squash in half and using a spoon scrape out and discard the seeds and fiber from the cavity.
3) Cut off and discard a thin slice from the bottom of each half so the squash will rest flat during baking.
4) Rub the cavity of each squash half with one quarter of the butter, and sprinkle the cavities with equal amounts of the brown sugar.
5) Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
6) Place on a baking dish and bake 40 to 45 minutes or until the flesh is tender.
Treasurer’s Report

Our budget is in great shape with 93% of your pledges received, very good investment income and expenses only a little higher than expected. Please keep it up!

Donations can be made on our website at http://stmarysatpenng.org/donate/. Just click on the “Donate” button which will take you to our PayPal Giving Fund page. No fees are deducted from your donation, and you will receive a tax receipt by email.

Vestry Minutes

(Continued)

Information

Approval of June Minutes: Frank moved and Robin seconded. Unanimously approved.

Kitchen Update: The pantry area still needs more work on the first two steps into the pantry from the outside. The floor is not level. Scott offered to work with Gonzalo on the sub-flooring. They should be able finish the work. If not, Rui will do the work in late August. Mary Redman refinished the butcher-block table. He also has written out how to clean and sanitize the butcher block going forward. Gonzalo is refinishing the fronts of the cabinets. The floor will be steam cleaned with a donation from Carol LaBelle in August. The next project needed is to thoroughly clean out the oven. Barbara has attempted to clean the oven twice, but there are many layers of baked on grime. We might consider hiring a professional service to clean out the oven.

We are looking for additional volunteers since Barbara and Sally have done all of the cleaning so far, and would appreciate others contributing to the “elbow grease” phase. Sally plans to have a meeting with all kitchen stakeholders to talk through usage of the kitchen, the tasks, and also things that can be discarded, in mid- to late August. Toby from UCHC to get some free/low-cost countertops. Sally is also seeking pricing from a family contact who sells countertops and might be able to get a discounted price.

Deacon’s Update:

Blood Drive: We need to provide 1500 sq. ft. of space. The Red Cross can come on a Saturday or Sunday for a minimum of 5 hours. We must guarantee 50 people will sign up (out of 50, on average 30 are able to give). Vestry members should strive to recruit 6 donors each. Possible dates are November 10 or 17.

UCHC: John Ash and Sally have been serving every week. Some of the students from the Episcopal Academy have still been coming to serve, as well as some faculty members. Average 40 attendees/diners and 2-8 come to the bible study Barbara hosts afterward.

Opioid abuse: Barbara is working to coordinate a training for administering Narcan/Naloxone.

Voter registration: Ann Farnsworth is working to coordinate voter registration events at local high schools.

Saturday, June 30 protest recap: Keep Families Together, Logan Circle, 11AM. Attendance from St. Mary’s was outstanding, about 15 showed.

Update on the Diocesan Growth Development Fund Grant Application Committee for 2019: The committee includes Aaron, Scott, Karen, Sally, and Sarto Schickel. We plan to meet again on Tuesday, July 31st at 7:00 PM (note: this meeting was postponed due to illness). At this time, Sarto will present a sketch to add storage space for the nursery school and a handicap bathroom in the parish hall. We are only considering this option. We are not ready to present it to the Vestry for their consideration. Mariclair will be joining us to hear about our ideas.

Frank Innes
Treasurer

Frank Innes | finnes@alum.drexel.edu