Easter is close to as late as it can possibly be on the calendar this year (fun fact: this is the latest Easter we will celebrate until 2038, when it will fall on April 25th), and you, like me, might be feeling the peculiarity of preparing for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten fast as the earth around us is barreling headlong into the beauty of Spring. The white blossoms of the snow drops are emerging, today from actual snow as we experience a storm, and the green tips of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths emerging from the ground in my front garden have me singing one of my favorite Easter hymns a bit early—

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.
When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to love again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Here at St. Mary’s we live in three calendars at once: the liturgical, the academic, and the “regular” one followed by the secular world. As we enter into Holy Week this year, our Penn community will be entering into the last weeks of classes for the Spring Semester, and just as we get into the swing of the Eastertide, final exams will end and caps and gowns will emerge and our student members will disperse to new towns for new jobs, internships, study abroad, summer vacation, post-docs. Meanwhile March and April and May just be spring for the non-Christian world, that most beautiful of seasons in our part of Pennsylvania- not yet the humid heat of summer, cool evenings and warm days and flowers and trees bursting with blossoms. It’s almost as if God is showing off a little, basking in God’s own creative force, giving us a foretaste of that heavenly banquet we will all partake in one day.

It can be hard to get into the “Lenten spirit” with all this spring happening around us, and so as we undertake the next 40 days of fasting, prayer, study, and penitence, let us look to our natural world as encouragement for all of our fasting and prayer, a reminder of the reason for all that we do and all who we are in our lives of faith. As we undertake this blessed Lent, we have our eyes on the Green Blade that Riseth, the Love that Lives Again, our Resurrected Savior.
Lenten Mid-Week Bible Study

6:30PM Potluck Dinner
7PM Bible Study
7:45 Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 13th
St. Mary’s

Wednesday, March 20th
University Lutheran
3637 Chestnut Street
(Luke 13:1-9)

Wednesday, March 27th
St. Mary’s

Wednesday, April 3rd
University Lutheran
(John 12:1-8)

Wednesday, April 10th
St. Mary’s
(Luke 23:1-49)

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 14th
Palm Sunday
11AM Mass with Procession beginning on Locust Walk

Wednesday, April 17th
Holy Wednesday
7PM Tenebrae @ UniLu

Thursday, April 18th
Maundy Thursday
7PM Mass with Foot Washing

Friday, April 19th
Good Friday
Noon Traditional Service (St. Mary’s)
4PM Walking Stations of the Cross starting @ St. George and St. Barnabas (520 S 61st Street)
7PM Contemporary Good Friday Service @ UniLu

Saturday, April 20th
Easter Vigil
at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

Sunday, April 21st
Easter Sunday
11AM Feast of the Resurrection

Eastertide Episcopal 101

Beginning Sunday, May 5, and continuing every Sunday until June 2nd, Deacon Barbara and Mother Mariclair will be co-teaching a five Sunday series on Episcopal Belief and Practice.

We will be basing our course on the book *Walk in Love* by Melody Shobe Wilson and Scott Gunn.

You don’t have to read the book to participate, though if you would like to explore the material more deeply it is recommended.
What are you giving up for Lent? That is a question many of us hear each year. It usually suggests giving up food that you really like, such as meat, chocolate, snack foods, or social media.

I have a new suggestion. How about giving up some blood? If you do, you will be giving life to another child of God. Blood donation is a sacred calling… and not unlike Jesus offering his self in love for us. People who need blood include car crash and other accident victims, women after childbirth, people with cancer, people with severe anemia, and certain surgical procedures, to name a few. As a retired nurse practitioner, I have to tell you how horrible it is if someone needs blood and there is none available.

Signing up
Our St. Mary’s blood drive is on Saturday, March 30th from 9am until 2pm. You can now sign up by going online to www.redcrossblood.org. Click on the button to donate. You will see a tab for “refine my search” in which you can choose a donation by date. If you choose March 30th and then “refine search,” St. Mary’s blood drive will show up with times that you can select.

Eligibility
If you are in good health and are over 16 and weigh over 110 pounds, you are eligible to try to donate. There is no top age limit if you are healthy. Unfortunately, if you belong to the LBGTQ community, you are usually not eligible. Please make sure you are well hydrated before giving blood.

What to expect
If you have never given blood before, now is the time and it is relatively easy, given the benefits. A donation only takes about an hour. They first take a CONFIDENTIAL health history, including travel history, prescription and over-the-counter medications, chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension (it is ok to donate if they are controlled), sexually transmitted diseases and other infections. (They do not always defer you from donation if you have been treated).

After that, they check your vital signs and hemoglobin (with a finger stick). If you are eligible, they will ask you to recline on a table. The technician will insert a sterile needle (with minimal discomfort) after disinfecting your skin, usually in the area where your arm bends. It usually takes only about 10 minutes for collection of a pint of blood and a few tubes for testing. They then apply a bandage, help you get you up slowly, and have you sit at a table and drink fluids and eat some snacks before you leave.

After you donate, the blood is taken to a center where it is processed and checked for infections (you will be notified if a serious infection is found). It is stored and shipped to medical centers 24/7. One can donate every 56 days.

If you cannot donate...
If you aren’t sure if you can donate, try anyway. We need 50 people to sign up and show up! Encourage friends and family to donate! If you know for sure that you cannot donate, I still need help. I need one person to volunteer to register people and give out snacks from 9 am to 11:30 am and two people from 11:30 to 2 pm.

The Rev. Barbara Tobin | deacon@stmarysatpenn.org
Welcome to the Spring 2019 issue of the St. Mary’s Newsletter! One of my favorite quotes about Spring is from John Muir (a.k.a. the Father of the National Parks), “Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm.” I can’t help but reflect on this as I review all of our newsletter content submissions before publishing: Yes, this is work, but what joyful work! It is finally Spring! Whether you’re cleaning your home for the season, preparing for graduation or the end of the semester, or exercising the spiritual discipline you need to commit to your Lenten fast, I hope that you, too, go on with joyful enthusiasm.

Fittingly, the purpose of our quarterly newsletters is to improve and maintain enthusiasm within St. Mary’s vibrant community. It is a wonderful resource to find opportunities to engage. Contents include information on all of our upcoming events and outreach opportunities, scholarly articles on St. Mary’s history and service music, spiritual reflections and calls to affirmative action, and even delicious recipes. There is something for everyone to enjoy! Another great way to engage with the St. Mary’s community is to contribute to our newsletter. We’d love to hear from you! After all, there wouldn’t be a St. Mary’s newsletter without the voices of St. Marians! Please feel free to direct any content suggestions and submissions to Sally Hillman Redman, sally.h.redman@gmail.com by our next deadline, May 15th.

Without further ado (but with joyful enthusiasm), I invite you to enjoy the contents of this edition and our upcoming opportunities to engage!

Happy Reading!

Brittany Holdahl | administrator@stmarysatpenn.org
St. Mary’s Observes 125th Anniversary

THE past week will be a memorable one for members of St. Mary’s Church, Hamilton Village, Philadelphia. Special events and services in celebration of the church’s 125th anniversary began October 9, included a corporate communion, a musicale, parish banquet and reenactment of the laying of the cornerstone. They conclude today with a service of rededication.

Although Episcopalian services were first held in a small two-story mission in 1820, the cornerstone for the original church, on the site of the present building on Locust near 39th st., was not laid until 1824, a year notable, moreover, as the time of Lafayette’s visit to Philadelphia. Grounds for the site were the gift of William Hamilton, a prominent citizen.

Predecessors of St. Mary’s present youthful, energetic rector, Rev. William X. Smith, included Rev. Thomas Yarnall, a native Philadelphian who was elected to that post in 1844 and began his duties in what appeared to be a country church. It was then surrounded by open fields and had only about 40 communicants. But it was during Rev. Yarnall’s 50-year tenure as rector that St. Mary’s was presented with its prized memorial altar.

Outstanding Mosaic Work

Made of white marble and mosaii the altar was built under the direction of the Rev. J. Bloomfield Wetherill as a memorial to his mother, and was presented to the parish by William H. Wetherill in 1890. In 1876, it had been exhibited at the Centennial Exposition where it attracted wide attention.

The altar, retable and reredos are from famous studios of Rome, and the marble forming the framework for the exquisite pictures is 22 feet eight inches high by 10 feet eight inches wide. On the face of the altar itself is the Agnus Dei, flanked by the Alpha and Omega. It is said to be one of the finest examples of ecclesiastical mosaic work in America, and cost, originally, $25,000.
On Discipleship

The word that I picked from the Epiphany star basket this year was “discipleship.” As is my wont, I have been researching and thinking about the meaning of “discipleship” off and on since I brought my star home. The word “disciple” comes to us from Greek through Latin and at its root means “learner,” but a “disciple” is more than an occasional “learner;” a Christian disciple is a follower of Jesus learning from Jesus through imitation of and adherence to the example and teaching Jesus provides. I have also been meditating on how “discipleship” should inform my ministry as People’s Warden.

The word “learner” is not a bad way to begin to think about “discipleship.” Discipleship is a state of being that Christians need to inhabit for our whole lives, a state in which we are always learning to better follow and imitate Christ, walking and living in God’s love. This is not just passive learning, it demands response grounded in faith and reaching with hope for the goal; it is more than like learning to ride a bike, drive a car, be a parent, but more so; like all these endeavours being a “disciple” of Jesus requires being bold, deciding to try despite uncertainty, being open to being wrong, to failure, and to getting up, getting behind the wheel, taking a deep breath and getting on with it, trying over and over again, despite the failure. But like any other learner, a disciple needs help. Discipleship is a state in which we must recognize we need help and that help is being offered.

Part of the role of People’s Warden is to be the corporate ears of the Church, listening for the Word, hearing the needs of the Parish and the world and, helping to communicate the People’s needs and concerns as well as helping us then respond, to act to deliver God’s love to the world. This is where I need your help. I am not particularly bold in temperament, so I ask you all – please share your boldness with me. Share your ideas.

I think, finally, that discipleship is, to its core, a communal endeavor, a state in which each disciple is called by Jesus to labour together in love and faith, and through the Spirit, to become the body of Christ, working together to bring the world closer to God’s Kingdom.
THANK YOU!

Serving as St. Mary’s Organist and Choir Director these four years and seven months has been an honor and a privilege. I’ve had the good fortune to work with a devoted and talented choir and my collaboration with Mother Mariclair has truly been a blessing. The outpouring of appreciation and good wishes upon my retirement has been gratifying and touching, and your generosity as expressed in the purse will always be remembered. I look forward to continued friendship with so many of you. May God continue to bless and prosper your ministries and may music always inspire your faith and devotion.

With all sincerity,

*David Shunskis*

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WELCOME, MICHAEL LAWRENCE!

St. Mary's will welcome our interim organist and choirmaster, Michael Lawrence, on Ash Wednesday, March 6th!

Michael is a composer, keyboardist, and field recordist in Philadelphia. As a composer, he has been published by the Organist’s Companion (Wayne Leupold Editions), among others. He is an assistant grand court organist on the Wanamaker Organ at Macy’s in Center City. For eleven years he was organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in South Philly. He recently represented Philadelphia for 60 Minute Cities, a project with Bivouac Recording of Shanghai, China featuring field recording albums from cities around the world.
From West Africa to You –
Groundnut Stew and a Bonus Too

I have a psychologist friend who specializes in taste perception and is quite a foodie. Plus she loves all sorts of exotic cuisines. She was eating Ethiopian food in DC before I moved to West Philly, and that was over 35 years ago! Debra (the friend) introduced me to *Ethnic Cuisine: The Flavor-Principle Cookbook* written by Elisabeth Rozin, a friend of hers. The book was first published in 1973 and was updated ten years later. The basic premise of the book is that each ethnic cuisine uses different basic spices, vegetables and other flavorings as the backdrop to their characteristic dishes.

This recipe comes from West Africa, and Rosin suggests that the basic flavor principle there is the combination of tomatoes, peanuts and chili peppers, along with onions, sweet peppers, and garlic for variation in flavor. The ingredients for the stew are:

- 2 Tbsp. peanut oil
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2-2 ½ lbs. lean beef, cut in 1-inch cubes
- 4 red and/or green bell peppers chopped
- 4 cloves garlic minced
- one 15 oz. can tomato sauce (2 cups)
- ½ tsp. salt; ¼ tsp. black pepper
- ¼ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (more or less to taste)
- ½ cup smooth peanut butter.

In a heavy pot or Dutch oven, heat oil, add onions, and sauté until the onions are soft. Add the beef cubes and brown on all sides. Add all the other ingredients except the peanut butter, mix well, and cook, covered, over low to moderate heat for about 2 hours, stirring occasionally, until beef is tender. Add peanut butter and stir to blend well. Continue to cook, uncovered, until sauce is reduced and thickened, about one hour. Serve stew with plain rice. This recipe serves 4 to 6 people.

While Scott would say a vegetable side isn’t warranted since there are peppers in the stew, I think roasted broccoli would work well with this dish. Preheat your oven to 450 degrees. Cut about a pound and a half of broccoli into bite sized pieces. Slice 6 to 8 garlic cloves (or more to taste!) and toss them with the broccoli and 3 Tbsp. of olive oil and salt and pepper to taste. Spread the mix on a baking sheet and roast until broccoli is bright green and edges are starting to brown slightly 20-25 minutes. Serve hot, and *bon appetit*!

Martin Bodtmann | marbodt@aol.com

*The Dinner Party, Sir Henry Cole*
If you have spent much time with me in church, eventually I will tell you about my big dreams for us to renovate our parish kitchen. In my grand plan, I see new countertops, a large, new refrigerator, a garbage/recycling center, and on the top of my wish list, an industrial dishwasher. You know the kind that washes dishes in minutes and costs a fortune. When I dream, I dream big!

Last year, when I painted this vision for the Vestry and Mother Mariclair, we discussed short-term, more realistic goals that I have affectionately labeled “our elbow grease phase.” In 2018, with the help of two dozen people, we have clean, painted, and generally spruced up the kitchen. We thoroughly cleaned the cabinets, inside and out. Gonzalo and Claudia refinished the cabinet doors and handles. A Boy Scout troop painted the walls and laid new flooring in the pantry for an Eagle project. Bob from UCHC came in on the weekends and painted the trim and doors. My husband, Marty, refinished the butcher-block table. John scrubbed the refrigerator. Juan cleaned the oven and grill top. Barbara and I pulled everything out of the cabinets. After sorting and washing, we returned them to clean shelves with new soft liners.

We also located a donation of china from a restaurant that obviously had been in the church’s basement for many years. The forty dinner and salad plates were disgusting! I washed them once by hand in the church, and twice in my home dishwasher to remove the grime. When they were all shiny, and more importantly sanitized, I placed them on the new shelf liners in the lower cabinet. My sights were now on that new, expensive industrial dishwasher since I assumed without it the dishes would just sit on the shelves.

What I did not count on was the Holy Spirit moving around us. Aaron Todd made a simple suggestion that changed everything! To help make St. Mary’s more ecologically sound, he recommended that we work towards eliminating the use of paper and plastic at our hospitality functions. Instead of worrying about the expense of a dishwasher, he thought that we would have volunteers to hand wash the dishes after Third Sunday brunches and other big events. It was such a simple suggestion, and yet so brilliant! I admit that it never occurred to me to hand wash the dishes while I was lost in my grand scheme. We have all enjoyed using the donated china at the last three Third Sunday brunches thanks to Aaron’s simple suggestion. It also responds to our Prayers of the People from the Book of Common Prayer: “Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we use its resources rightly in the service of others and to our honor and glory.”

What is the point of this article? I ask you to think about that simple suggestion that you would like to see at St. Mary’s. Talk to the Vestry members about your ideas. It may never have occurred to us to do that simple thing that will enrich our lives together at St. Mary’s. However, if you know anyone who wants to donate an industrial dishwasher, I am all ears!

Sally Hillman Redman
Rector’s Warden

Sally Hillman Redman | Sally.h.redman@gmail.com
Arts and Culture at St. Mary’s

St. Mary’s is committed to supporting the Arts in University City. For decades, our church has been a place where people from all walks of life can gather to share in the joys of creativity. We proudly host several creative groups that live out their mission under our roof: the Bearded Ladies Cabaret, Shakespeare in Clark Park, the Gatherings, West Philly Square Dance, and the Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium, to name a few. Today, we have the pleasure of providing space for rehearsals and auditions in our Parish Hall and our sanctuary has occasionally been transformed into a concert space and a stage for theatrical productions!

Churches like ours have played an integral part in the resurgence, survival, and prosperity of theatrical and musical performances as far back as the Middle Ages. Initially, certain parts of church ritual were expanded in action as a way to vividly exhibit what the service was intended to commemorate (e.g. Mystery Plays). Over time, more secular performances would find their way to sanctuaries like ours because the spaces were ideal: they provided shelter from unpredictable weather conditions, many contained mansion stages, and they were already firmly established as the nexus of communal gatherings. In more recent times, organizations like Art in Sacred Places (AiSP) continue this tradition by bringing together artists and art organizations in need of performance space and places of worship with underused space.

St. Mary’s history of collaborating with artists can be traced back to the 1970’s when our parish basement was home to Geno’s Empty Foxhole, Philadelphia’s leading jazz club, where influential jazz musicians, like Sun Ra and the Arkestra, were showcased. Today, our basement is the home of the Bearded Ladies Cabaret, an experimental cabaret group whose mission is to address gender politics and identity with effervescence and clever artistic invention.

There is another theatre company who calls our parish basement home: The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium. Per the IRC’s homepage, their mission is “[to] bring good nothingness to life.” They are committed to producing intelligent, titillating experiences featuring performances that are absurd and humorous. One such performance was Elmer Rice’s Dream Girl, which was performed in our very own sanctuary this February. Artistic Producer, Tina Brock, chose St. Mary’s sanctuary as the performance space because she felt its neo-Gothic architecture would lend itself to the post-WWII Manhattan glamour of Dream Girl’s world. All Saints’ chapel was deftly transformed with the use of strategically-placed antiques and furnishings (courtesy of Brock and propmaster Mark Williams) and Josh Schulman’s kaleidoscopic lighting design. With the help of Erica Hoelscher’s meticulous costume design, eight performers brought to life 32 characters in this Philadelphia premiere.

Our sanctuary has been used for many musical performances over the last year, as well. Returning this April is The Gatherings, a concert series which presents Ethereal, Ambient, Electronic and Space music. The Gatherings has called St. Mary’s a home since 1992, transforming our space into an ambient performance space where all long-time genre enthusiasts and curious first-time listeners are welcome to mingle and enjoy live performances.
Another musical performance to look forward to this April is the Penn University Choir concert, which is directed by Emily Sung and performed in our sanctuary this past November to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the WWI Armistice. This performance featured interwar music by Francis Poulenc, Gideon Klein, and Mordechai Gebirtig, alongside selections from a 2013 choral song cycle by the contemporary composer Andrew Maxfield. That same month, Colgate University’s Chamber Singers visited to present Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem and were joined by members of Variant 6, Philadelphia’s premiere vocal sextet. This performance gave its audience the opportunity to enjoy a 19th-Century movement performed in a 19th-Century neo-Gothic church. In December, Penn Choir’s seasonal concert featured Latin American folk and holiday music. The centerpiece was Ariel Ramirez’s Misa Criolla, a vernacular mass setting based on the rhythms and traditions of Latin America. The piece featured Argentinian folk melodies and dance styles and was arranged for soloists, choir, and indigenous instruments. Other pieces included well-loved folk arrangements from Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, and Spain. Penn Collegium Musicum (formerly Ancient Voices) is a select chamber choir that specializes in music from the Medieval, Renaissance, and early Baroque period. Open by audition to all students and members of the Penn community, the choir has a special interest in historically-informed performance practice. Led by Meg Bragle, Penn Collegium Musicum performs two concerts per year, both of which are at St. Mary’s. Their December concert was an absolute delight and we very much look forward to May’s! In addition to Penn Collegium’s winter concert next year, we will also be delighted by the Renaissance wind instruments of Piffaro in December 2019. More details will be released closer to the performance date; as of now, a performance of 15th century English pieces is planned.

Between the Gatherings’ ethereal, futuristic ambience and these chamber choirs’ meticulous, effusive performances of classical pieces, the walls of St. Mary’s have resonated with contemporary sounds, as well! At the end of March, we will again welcome Penn’s Dischord A Capella, which started in 1998 and has grown significantly over the past couple years. They’ve performed at pre-Superbowl events like the Silver Chord Bowl in Massachusetts and boast a feature on Buzzfeed’s article, “Top 17 Indie A Cappella Covers” for their reimagining of Tune-Yards’ “Bizness.”

Our Parish Hall has been very busy as well! We had the pleasure of co-hosting world culture and interfaith events this past year. In December, we enjoyed poetry readings by Ahmad Almallah and Huda Fakhreddine and dinner made by Osama Herkal, a recently resettled Syrian chef during the first Marhaba dinner which was co-hosted by Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture. At the January Marhaba we practiced speaking Arabic, learned how to dance dabkeh with Ibrahim Miari, and ate dinner made by Amina Alaiko, a recently resettled Syrian chef. February’s Marhaba featured a screening of Soufra, a film in Arabic about Syrian refugees who started a food truck in Lebanon. FaSoLa shape note singing also continues throughout the year on every second Sunday, giving visitors the opportunity to experience this living singing tradition unlike any other form of American sacred music, both in its vibrant sound and in its distinctive singing practice. Like Marhaba, listeners and participants get to nourish their minds and bodies as there is a break for potluck and fellowship. Guests have the opportunity to get up and move in our Parish Hall as well: the BYOB West Philly Square Dance continues monthly throughout the year where dancers can enjoy learning the traditional dances to live music. For those who are more inclined to express themselves through movement in a different ways, YMAP Aikido teaches classes weekly on Wednesday nights and Argent Combat theatrical swordplay classes are due to begin mid-Spring for aspiring stunt performers and enthusiasts.

If you are interested in learning more about upcoming events or would like to explore hosting a performance, workshop, or reception in any of our spaces, please feel free to reach me at the email address below or by calling our office at 215.386.3916!

Brittany Holdahl | administrator@stmarysatpenn.org
We ended 2018 with a budget surplus of $4,400, due largely to the fact that the Rector’s maternity leave short term disability reimbursement to the parish was more than the expense of paying supply clergy, and that pledge receipts exceeded expectations.

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<th>St. Mary’s Hamilton Village, Operating Budget, 2018 Actuals</th>
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<td><strong>Statement of Revenue and Expenses</strong></td>
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Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
October 23, 2018, 7 – 8:30PM


Absent: Sophia Reeder

Spiritual Practice – Frank Innes

Information

Approval of September Minutes: Frank moved and Vanessa seconded. Unanimously approved.

Stewardship: Going well. Claudia wrote the stewardship letter this year. We’ve already received a few pledges for next year. Cassandra did a great job last week. It was nice to get to know her better through her stewardship talk. All of the talks are posted on the St. Mary’s website.

Deacon’s Update:
UCHC going well. Sally and John are regular volunteers.
Still doing collection of snacks for Puentes de Salud.
Becoming Beloved community initiative from the bishop. Fast 21. We’ll start in January. SNAP benefits usually run out on the 21st of each month for people, so we’ll fast for one day each month on the 21st in solidarity. Doesn’t need to be a food fast necessarily, digital fast for example.
John Ash and Janet Deatrick went to the Narcan training. Barbara is attempting to get Narcan for UCHC. The Narcan trainers also suggested getting an AED defibrillator. They are around $1500. Also a maintenance service is required to make sure it works and is charged (additional fee). We can get them from Red Cross for 10% off. Requires training to use. There is a possible grant through the government for this. CPR training through Red Cross requires 8 people per class. You have to know CPR to use a defibrillator.
Barbara continues to try to schedule a blood donation event at St. Mary’s, possibly in March 2019.
Christmas Toys Drive by Episcopal Community Services. Toy collection is between Nov. 26 and Dec. 14. We’ve done this for the past 5 years and will continue to do so this year. We will sponsor 20 children this year.
**Diocesan Fund Grant Application/SMNS Update:** Continuing to talk. Sarto did a great job. Scott is working on budgets for the bathroom/storage/media wall project.

**Choral Scholars Update:** We have 5 choral scholars through December 8. This grant was not renewed by the Diocese, but we’re funded through the end of this year and possibly through Fall 2019. Mariclair is working on alternative sources of future funding.

**Patty Duncan:** is having a surgical procedure on Tuesday, October 30. An email will go out on the Thursday prior asking for prayer and community during this time. This Sunday we will have a laying on of hands during the service. We’ll also plan something for Nov. 4, her first Sunday back after her procedure, a fun food thing.

**Discussion – Hope and Dreams!**

**Foyers Groups:** (dinner groups) Vanessa and Mariclair introduced. A movable dinner party, potluck style, for parishioners, helps to incorporate newcomers. Opportunity to share meals, get to know each other better, and share some fellowship.

**Reaching out to the greater West Philly African American community.** Robin introduced the idea of hosting “Sunday Suppers.” Events in which West Philadelphia families living in poverty that are offered a nice meal, nutrition information, and cooking tips. No social media at the table. A longer term project. Maybe we could partner with Sunday Suppers organization (sundaysuppersphilly.org). The same family might come for dinner 4 or so times.

**Deanery Narcan Trainings:** One-day health trainings. One mental health-themed, one about addictions, and a third mental health-themed.

**Sustainability:** Dishwashing crews for Sunday Brunch, better recycling instructions, more recycling bins. No Styrofoam.

**Concerts/Performances:** Barbara knows a Methodist jazz musician. Gospel hymn student group performance. Gospel evensong, Jazz Vespers, etc. Concert on the grass or something outside of the church to attract passersby. Non-Anglican traditional music.

**Adult Formation:** Advent, church formation/beliefs series. Retreat weekend at the nature preserve the diocese owns. It has 16 cabins and is near Easton, MD.
Birthdays: Attempt to more personally recognize parishioners’ birthdays during Sunday service.

Children’s choir

Children’s sermon/moment during the service.

Book groups

Church stained glass window stories/history event. Using the church’s stained-glass window art as teaching tools.

Movie night/film series – In December we will host a family Christmas movie night.

Action

Treasurer’s report – Frank provided a report through September. Sally moved to approve, Jonathan seconded. Unanimously approved.

Closing Prayer - Mariclair

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
November 27, 2018, 7 – 8:30PM

Present: Jonathan Ashton, The Rev. Mariclair Partee Carlsen, Robin Foster-Drain, Frank Innes, Sally Hillman Redman, Karen Stachelek, Deacon Barbara Tobin, Aaron Todd (note taker)

Absent: Vanessa Albert Lowry, Sophia Reeder

Spiritual Practice – Mariclair

Information

Approval of October Minutes: Frank moved and Sally seconded. Unanimously approved.
**Stewardship:** Doing well with pledges. 18 of 28 who have given in previous years have submitted 2019 pledges. Most people have decided to give the same amount as the previous year. Mariclair will explore new consecration Sunday to encourage parishioners to think differently about their pledges. Stewardship moments on Sunday have been helpful. The Finance Committee meeting is on December 11. Hopefully we will have a budget to propose before January. Parishioners should also be able to feel like they can decrease their pledges without penalty in the case that their financial standing has shifted.

**Deacon’s Update:**

**UCHC:** Doing well.

**ECS Christmas Gifts:** We successfully provided Christmas toys for 20 children. Way to go!

**Fast, Act, and Pray:** Starting January 21. Once a month on the 21st, Fast, Act, and Pray in solidarity with folks who run out of their SNAP benefits. Food fasting, technology fasting. An issue will be raised each month as a suggestion to act upon. We will do this for 6 months.

**Women’s March on January 19, 2019:** Events will occur in Philadelphia, Washington, DC, and cities around the world.

**Lent:** Diocese is hosting a gun violence/faithful witness program. Involves putting shirts on the lawns of people who have been victims of gun violence.

**Red Cross Blood donation event:** Scheduled for March 30, 2019

**Diocesan Convention Summary:** Thank you to Frank, Vanessa, Barbara, and Mariclair who went. The convention was well attended. Many voices were heard. Blessing bags! The singing was lovely. Discussion of diocesan incorporation, which passed, but will need to pass again next year to go into effect. There was an election issue due to electronic voting, so paper ballots were used instead. The Diocesan Council will shrink from 30 to 20. A change occurred with diocesan voting. Previously, the clergy would get a vote, and the parish got a vote from the consensus of 3 delegates. This changed so that every lay attendee now has a vote. Though this was intended to offer more people a voice, it unfortunately means that parishes who aren’t able to send as many attendees (due to availability, work schedule, etc.) will have less of a voice. Visiting Bishop from Guatemala attended! Childcare wasn’t available due to limited space in the Cathedral. Mariclair will propose using St. Mary’s for childcare during the next convention.

**Official Episcopal Visitation Dec. 16th:** The bishop is visiting! Let’s make an effort to attend as numbers will be low due to students being in the middle of exams/heading home for winter break. There will be brunch (on real plates!). The loose offering that day will go to the Bishop’s alms fund—his discretionary fund to distribute to various ministries.
Diocesan Fund Grant Application/SMNS Update: The application is nearly complete. January 15th is the deadline. We are well poised to submit well in advance.

Al-Bustan Seeds of Hope Cultural Partnership Events: Local Arabic language group that contacted us to use the parish hall for 3 cultural events around art, poetry, and food. They try to bridge the cultural gap between Arabic speaking groups and other groups. It’s an opportunity for Arabic speakers. This would be a named partnership, and we won’t charge a rental fee for use. Three 2-hour events on weeknights.

Discussion

Colgate College Choir NSC Donation: It was a great concert, but not very well attended. $260+ donation received at the door and $650 raised from the rental fee. Proposal to give $250 to NSC and the rest would go to St. Mary’s other outreach ministries. Robin moved to approve, Frank seconded. Unanimously approved.

Hopes and Dreams, Part II, postponed until the December vestry meeting due to attendance.

Action

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

Closing Prayer - Mariclair

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
December 28, 2018, 7 – 8:00PM


Absent: Sophia Reeder
**Spiritual Practice** - Mariclair

**Information**

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

**Deacon’s Update:**

**Pray, Fast, Act:** Starting in January 2019 and lasting for 6 months, St. Marians are invited and encouraged to Pray, Fast, and Act on the 21st day of each month which is when Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits run out for 90% 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. You can fast from food, technology, social media, or television... or all of those things if you so desire!

**Narcan:** Barbara has acquired some Narcan that she will store in the kitchen and has a poster she will post indicating that Narcan is in the church. She would like to offer Narcan trainings to parishioners who help with UCHC.

**Women’s March:** Saturday, January 19. St. Marians are asked to meet at 9:30AM at St. Clement’s Church at 20th and Cherry Streets. Make a sign! Contact Deacon Barbara if interested.

**Stewardship Summary:** Waiting on two additional pledges. Some pledges have gone up this year. This should represent around a 5% increase in donations.

**Diocesan Fund Grant Application Update:** Waiting on one final piece of financial info. We should be able to submit the final application this week.

**2019 Budget:** The Finance Committee is meeting Jan. 8th and will focus on putting together a 2019 budget then.

**Counters:** Martin Bodtmann would like to step down from his role as a counter. He has done a wonderful and faithful job over many years. Thank you, Martin! We will need 2 additional counters. Mariclair will put out a general call to the parish.
**Vestry Minutes**

**Discussion**

**Looking ahead to 2019: Vestry 101/Retreat:** Mariclair wants to set aside time for a vestry retreat over the period of a Friday evening and Saturday day. On Friday night, she would host a Vestry 101 course: responsibilities, privileges, etc. On Saturday, we would do a more formal “visioning” as we did during the October vestry meeting. We will explore a retreat date during the January vestry meeting. Bring your schedules!

**Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture Partnership (Doris Duke Foundation Grant):** Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture is an Arabic language and culture organization centered around the arts. In 2019, St. Mary’s will partner with them to co-host the Marhaba Dinner Series on Jan. 29 and Feb. 26, and a planned Fall 2019 arts event in the sanctuary. ([https://twitter.com/albustanseeds](https://twitter.com/albustanseeds)) They had their first event at St. Mary’s on Dec. 11. There were poetry readings and food. Different Arabic cultures represented. Tons of people attended. Would St. Mary’s be interested in partnering with them on their *Convivencia* series? We would need to provide a letter of intent expressing interest and support. This would involve an arts event hosted by St. Mary’s in the Fall 2019. Vanessa is familiar with this organization and supportive. Ann Farnsworth is also familiar with them. Frank moved that we endorse becoming partners with Al-Bustan for this series as outlined by a document Mariclair provided the Vestry. Vanessa seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Widener Memorial foundation grant:** Sally learned of a grant that provides capital for organizations to add ADA accessible ramps and elevators. We should think about applying for this grant. They typically award between $3000 - $5000 for this purpose. There also other grants that we can apply for.

**Self-Audit of Personnel:** A self-audit is required for worker’s compensation purposes. We need to provide information on how much we pay St. Mary’s staff members and their job titles.

**Family Movie Night:** Vanessa was inspired by other vestry members to suggest this idea and put a lot of energy and effort to make this happen. Very successful. We had 30 people. Most people heard about it through the West Philly family listserv and social media groups. Screened *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *A Mickey Mouse Christmas Carol*. There were craft tables for the children, which were quite popular. Next time we should have someone be a designated craft host. We plan to host another film night in the future.

**Sunday Suppers and Foyer Group:** We will host meetings in January to discuss partnering with the Sunday Suppers organization, which provides community education and bridge building with West Philly residents of color. We will also discuss creation of a Foyer Group, which will be a fellowship group for incorporating new parishioners.

**Action**

**Treasurer’s report:** Frank provided a report through November. Sally moved to approve, Jonathan seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Executive Session** - Mariclair

**Closing Prayer** – Mariclair
Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, March 2nd to Sunday, March 10th
Penn Spring Break:
No Tuesday Low Mass
or Thursday Candlelight Compline

Sunday, March 3rd
11 AM Mass

Tuesday, March 5th
Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday, March 6th
Ash Wednesday Services
7:30 AM, 12 Noon, & 7 PM

Saturday, March 9th
Women’s Group Meeting, 11 AM to 2 PM

Sunday, March 10th
Daylight Saving Time Begins
First Sunday of Lent, 11 AM Mass
FaSoLa Shape Notes, 5-8 PM

Tuesday, March 12th
Low Mass Resumes, 12:15 PM

Thursday, March 14th
Candlelight Compline Resumes, 8 PM

Sunday, March 17th
11 AM Mass
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch

Tuesday, March 19th
Low Mass, 12:15 PM

Thursday, March 21st
Candlelight Compline, 8 PM
Pray, Fast, Act! Day of Fasting

Sunday, March 24th
11 AM Mass

Tuesday, March 26th
Low Mass, 12:15 PM
Vestry Meeting, 7 PM

Thursday, March 28th
Candlelight Compline, 8 PM

Saturday, March 30th
Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 AM to 2 PM

Saturday, April 13th
Great Cleaning Before Easter
Parish Work Day, 9 AM

Sunday, April 14th
Palm Sunday 11 AM Mass

Thursday, April 18th
Maundy Thursday
7 PM Mass and Foot Washing
No Candlelight Compline

Friday, April 19th
Good Friday
12 PM Liturgy with Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Saturday, April 20th
Holy Saturday, The Great Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter
7 PM Mass with Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Sunday, April 21st
Easter Sunday 11 AM Mass

Are you interested in helping out with our spectacular Sunday coffee hour?

Contact Pattie 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

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!
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**Important Dates:**
- **3rd March:** Penn Spring Break
- **11th March:** Penn Spring Break
- **17th March:** Choir 9:30 AM
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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 or reoccurring donation!

A Prayer for Spring

Ever-creating God, you walk with us on our blessed Lenten journey from the dust of Ash Wednesday to the triumph of the Palm Sunday procession, from the fasting we undertake on Good Friday through the darkness of death to the glory of the Vigil flame proclaiming the Resurrection. Give us strength and courage, we pray to you, to undertake the fast you have prepared for us, and spring forth from the grave in triumph with our Risen Christ. All this we ask through you- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.