Rector’s Reflections

On Sunday, March 15th, I will celebrate my seventh anniversary at St. Mary’s. It feels like it was both yesterday and a lifetime ago that I arrived as your brand new rector. So much has happened in the intervening years in my own life, including marrying Mitch in our sanctuary in 2013, the arrival of Ruby in 2015 and Maisie in 2018, and moving from my tiny Chinatown apartment to our house on St. Mark’s Square. When I walk the two blocks home after mass on Sundays or Compline on Thursday nights, it feels like I am exactly where I am supposed to be, and like I’ve always been here. Our family recently found out that Ruby will be able to attend kindergarten at the Penn Alexander School this fall, which means we will be able to stay in our settled life in the neighborhood- a great relief.

The past seven years have seen many changes in our life as a parish at St. Mary’s, as well- we have said hello to eight graduating classes of undergraduates, and students who were finishing up their senior year when I arrived are now in their 30s! As a community we have celebrated births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and marked the deaths of some of our beloved members with the funeral rite. We have started new services and programs, strengthened existing ones, and welcomed new staff members, while saying goodbye to those who have retired or moved on to other places or vocations.

The seasonal nature of our liturgical life informs so much about how we live out our faith as Christians and Episcopalians, and in our unique context on a university campus, we have another cycle of semesters and breaks that marks the passage of time for us. I am particularly moved every year by our entrance into the season of Lent, a neat period of 40 days and 40 nights (not counting Sundays) in which we get to try on another way of being, whether through fasting or other penitential disciplines- what a gift to have the chance to regularly re-examine our manner of life to identify what is working for us and feeding our spirits, as well as what we might let go of to further the nourishment our souls. It never fails that I meet Easter morn refreshed by my closer walk with God during the Lenten season, no matter how “successful” I’ve been at maintaining my fast. I can say the same of Advent, Epiphanytide, even the long, slow season of Ordinary time following the Feast of Pentecost- marking the changing liturgical seasons helps center me in the passage of time, frees me from the all too common feeling of losing months or years in routines that are not serving me in my life of faith. I pray that your Lent may be similarly holy and life-giving!

Another cycle clergy mark in our lives is that of sabbatical- every seven years we are encouraged to set aside a period of time between 3 and 6 months for renewal work away from the parish. This summer I will be taking my very first sabbatical in 13 years of ordained ministry from the last week of May, after Penn’s graduation, to the middle of August right before students move back on to campus. 

(Continued)
During this time away you will be well-cared for by some familiar faces- The Rev. Canon Gordon Reid from May 24th to July 26th, and The Rev. Joy Segal and The Rev. Clare Schoenberg from August 2nd through the 16th. I will be spending my time in a few different ways- studying the meditative prayers of Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109 CE), particularly his prayers to Our Lady and to God as mother. I’ll also be with my children and parents in my hometown in Georgia, reflecting on my experiences as a spiritual mother of this parish, a mother of young children, the child of an aging mother, and a Child of God. I plan to keep a blog going while I am away so you can check in on my progress, and I will present a final reflection on this project at an adult forum in the fall.

Sabbaticals are a time for reflection and renewal for the parish, too, and so over the summer you will have the chance to join our visiting clergy at Third Sunday brunches in June, July, and August for conversations about how the Book of Common Prayer has been a source for spiritual discipline and nurture in their lay and ordained lives, and how they continue to live with this book that is central to our common life as Episcopalians. (I am applying for funding from our diocese to cover costs for supply clergy and some materials, and hope to be able to provide a copy of Inwardly Digest: The Prayer Book as Guide to a Spiritual Life by Derek Olsen, for any St. Marian who would like a copy, so stay tuned for more details on that!)

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

On the Sundays when we don’t have special guests, Mother Mariclar and Deacon Barbara will be presenting a series conversations about the Book of Common Prayer and the various resources for personal spiritual devotion found in its pages. If you’ve ever wondered what a collect is, had questions about how to pray Morning Prayer, why we have orders for both Evening Prayer and Compline, or generally want to become more familiar with this book at the center of our liturgical life, this is for you! If you would like to do study on your own, we recommend the book Inwardly Digest: The Prayer Book as Guide to a Spiritual Life by Derek Olsen, a beautifully and thoughtfully written companion to the Book of Common Prayer that we will be using throughout the summer and fall as a companion to adult education offerings.

**Lenten Conversations: Prayer Book Spirituality**

**Following 11 AM Mass on March 8th, 22nd & 25th**

**March 1st**
Canon Kirk Berlenbach, Congregational Resources in the Diocese of Pennsylvania

**March 8th**
Prayer Book Spirituality with Mother Mariclar and Deacon Barbara

**March 15th**
Service: Guest Speaker Cathy Davis for Hosts For Hospitals

**March 22nd**
Prayer Book Spirituality with Mother Mariclar and Deacon Barbara

**March 29th**
Prayer Book Spirituality with Mother Mariclar and Deacon Barbara
Deacon’s Notes

On January 28th, St. Mary’s hosted a group of diocesan deacons to hear the Canon for Mission from the Diocese of Maryland, the Reverend Deacon Chris McCloud, talk about individual and systemic racism and reparations for slavery.

November 1st was the 150th anniversary of the repeal of chattel slavery in the state of Maryland. On that anniversary date, the diocese held a Day of Repentance and Reconciliation, which began a series of pilgrimages, including research into individual parishes’ history of slavery, storytelling, and truth-telling and dialogue, which led to the passing of the resolution. As you may know, the Diocese of Maryland, a Southern state, unanimously (an amazing action) passed a resolution in June 2019 to repair the legacy of slavery and racism in their diocese.

Reparation is a misunderstood topic. It is not about giving out money. It is a process of repairing the breach; it is about reconciliation to fix what has been broken in our society because of slavery and racism. Please view the video of the Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, testifying before Congress to ask for a national commission on anti-racism.

Before our deacons’ meeting, a few of us had hoped that we could support something similar in our diocese. It has become evident, though, that we have a lot of work to do before we undertake such a revolutionary action. A critical mass of laypeople and clergy in our diocese must be educated and sensitized to the extent of racism in our country. Although our Diocese of Pennsylvania has sponsored Anti-Racism training over the years (which has been required for some of the newer clergy and us deacons before ordination) it was neither systematized nor consistent in the presentations. The new leadership has developed a more robust curriculum.

Anti-Racism training consisting of four sessions will be starting on Saturday, February 29th. All meetings will be held at St. Asaph’s Church, 2700 Conshohocken Road, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. A link to register for each training will be posted on the diocesan website: diopa.org a month before each event. The sessions include an interactive discussion with some lecture. All four modules will be repeated over one to two years, so if you miss one, you can attend at another time. The committee and diocese are actively encouraging lay people to participate.

The dates and topics are:

A Historic Perspective of Racism in the US. (Saturday, February 29th 9 am-2 pm): a look at the development of a legal framework, beginning in the late 1600s, that would support enslavement, dehumanization, and later disenfranchisement of “non-white” groups. Also, a segment on responses of resilience in the enslaved community. (Note: I am told this is way more interesting than it sounds.)

Understanding the History of Systemic Racism (Saturday, May 9th 9 am-2 pm): a look at the presence of, and cultural and legal support of the differential treatment of black and brown people in the institutions of our common life. Introduction to specific laws and practices that operate to disempower the participation of black and brown people in developing wealth and raising standards of living.

Our Personal History with American Racism (Saturday, July 25th 9 am-2 pm). Explores the creation of racial identity that informs one’s assumptions about self and life.

Active Accountability for Allies (Saturday, October 17th 9 am to 2 pm). Supports participants in determining the next steps in continued learning and active participation in anti-racist decisions and actions.

I understand that everyone in our parish has a plate full of commitments, and it may be difficult, or impossible, for you to attend. But if you can, I would love for you to join me (I will not be at Feb 29th session, but that doesn’t mean you cannot go). This is one way we can help fulfill our Baptismal covenant. Please think and pray about it.

Peace and blessings to you all,

The Rev. Barbara Tobin | deacon@stmarysatpenn.org
This time of the year, I always think of John Muir, I suppose, because I find myself enjoying the outdoors more. As I’m a nerd for nature and avid conservation advocate, he is one of my favorite people in history. Something in me seems to feel brighter as the days get lighter, and that same effervescence seems to shine in everyone and everything around me. I may just be projecting my own happy mood on folks, but I like to think that maybe I’m actually not and we are all connected with each other and with the bright world around us!

Speaking of connection, the purpose of our quarterly newsletters is to improve and maintain enthusiasm within the vibrant community of St. Mary’s to help us connect even more! They are a wonderful resource to find other information on all of our upcoming events and outreach opportunities, scholarly articles on St. Mary’s history and music, spiritual reflections and calls to action, and even delicious recipes! There is something for everyone! 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 me by our next deadline, May 15th.

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 vibrant and exciting Spring, St. Marians. Happy reading!

Brittany Holdahl | administrator@stmarysatpenn.org
Children’s Corner

Sunday School and Nursery Transitions (Welcome, Andre!)

In late February Kia da Silva, our paid nursery staffer, stepped back from her role so that she could devote all of her focus on her Junior year at Penn. We thank Kia for her faithfulness, as a Sunday School alumna and energetic wrangler of our children, in helping introduce a new generation of St. Mary’s kids to Christian education, and we will still see her around on Sundays when she isn’t doing archaeological digs in Oman or performing in many of the Penn arts performance groups and debate societies!

Andre Houslin has now joined the St. Mary’s Sunday School as our paid nursery staffer. Andre has been a teacher at the St. Mary’s Nursery School for over five years, working with older toddlers, and is currently pursuing an Associate’s degree in early childhood development at the Community College of Philadelphia. He is 24 years old and loves to listen to music and play video games in his free time. Please give Andre a warm St. Mary’s welcome when you see him on Sundays!

Last month I went to an amazing all day workshop on a new Anglican children’s program called “Diddy Disciples.” The program was presented by the originator, a woman priest and Bible scholar in London who developed it so she could participate in Sunday worship without leaving her 3 small children at home. It has grown as her children have grown. It is both age-appropriate for babies and toddlers (and up to age 11 or 12) and liturgically and spiritually developed. I went just hoping to get a couple of ways to help young children engage in and transition between activities, and came away with a much better appreciation of what makes what we have been going here special and how a little focus could make it more accessible for younger children.

The basic idea is that babies and toddlers engage with the world with their whole bodies, moving all the time, and with their voices, and that liturgy is something that uses movement and singing. Given this, babies and toddlers can engage joyfully in a liturgical experience that is designed to include them, one in which they can participate. The experience of the presenter is that participation will grow into belonging and leadership and is to be honored and fostered so that, as the children grow, they find new roles in the experience.

Our Sunday School here is designed to be participatory and liturgical and to cultivate leadership, but we had not really incorporated movement and singing into it because it had been designed around the needs of school-age children, and encouraging reading and discussion, and I am not the singer I would like to be. The experience of the workshops allowed me to give myself permission to move and sing without judging myself, and I have added movement and singing to my storytelling, and to help transition to coming down for communion. It has really helped me connect with the children. We are in the process of examining how to incorporate more of the program into our children’s program for next academic year.

We will see where all this leads in the next few months. Please invite families. We definitely have a place for them at our Church. Thank you.

Vanessa Albert Lowry | LowryV@gtlaw.com
People’s Warden Corner

Projects!

As People’s Warden, part of my responsibility is to assure our physical spaces are maintained and improved. We have two big projects in the works, the organ renewal, which is about to get started, and the Parish Hall renovation, which we hope to start in the Fall. There are always smaller projects that can be undertaken. If there is something you see that needs renewal and you could take it on alone or with a partner or small group, please feel empowered to discuss it with me and others on the Vestry and please always feel invited to assist when we ask for help with a cleanup day or other project. Everyone has the ability to contribute to our corporate existence and we welcome your time and talent. Thank you for all you do here and out in the world to bring about God’s kingdom.

Vanessa Albert Lowry | LowryV@gtlaw.com

Welcome, Cassandra!

Welcome new Vestry Member Cassandra Royall!

Cassandra was born and raised in Philadelphia, and has lived with her family in the Garden Court area for nearly 25 years. She is married and the proud mother of 3 daughters ranging in age from 22 - 36. Cassandra has worked in the religious community for the majority of her adult life and, for reasons that even she doesn’t understand, has always worked for Jewish organizations. For many years she worked as the manager of Congregation Kesher Israel located in the Society Hill section of Philadelphia and she is now the business office manager for both the Lubavitch house at Penn and Jewish Heritage Programs. Cassandra is excited to expand her service at St Mary’s, and looks forward to contributing in this way to the congregation.
On Sunday, March 22, at 5 pm, our choir will be singing an **Evensong** service. For most of the history of Christianity, there has been a tradition of praying the Divine Office, the various hours throughout the day marked by prayer. Lauds, Vespers, and Compline are just some examples of these hours throughout the day. Evensong, sometimes called Evening Prayer, is much like Vespers in the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches. However, it initially combined Vespers and Compline, as can be seen from the inclusion of the Nunc dimittis.

The anchor of Evensong, as in all the hours of the Divine Office, is the Psalms, which are often chanted in four-part Anglican Psalm tones in the Episcopal Church, though other styles, such as Gregorian chant, can be used as well. These Psalms build to a liturgical climax in the Magnificat, Mary’s song of praise that has much in common with the Old Testament songs both in form and content.

Much of the vast choral repertoire of the Anglican tradition comes from the Evensong settings. Just type “Magnificat and Nunc dimittis” into the search field of YouTube and one very long list of music will come up. Many of the great English choirs—the likes of King’s College and Westminster Abbey—have put out recordings of this service, and I would also encourage everyone to give a listen to Vespers and Compline in the Gregorian chant tradition as well. The monks of Solesmes, Fontgombault, and Stift Heiligenkreuz are three of my favorite chant choirs.

Except for certain kinds of avant-garde music, our modern ears are accustomed to music that is built on chords and chord progressions. As Willie Nelson has said, “Country music is three chords and the truth.” A “C” chord has a C, E, and G—and specific chords happen in a particular order to give music the harmonic drive with which we’re so familiar. Where dissonance occurs, it is measured against this expectation of what a chord ought to be. If at any moment, we hear a cluster of notes that does not sound like a proper chord, it can be jarring. Since the Baroque era, even counterpoint, with all of its intricate, individual lines, has bent to the will of the chord progression. Bach was the master of combining these two forces into a convincing composition.

This was not always the case. If we go back to the Renaissance, the rules of consonance and dissonance applied to each line, without regard for how the resulting “harmonies” interacted with each other. Certain leaps from one note to the next were forbidden, while others were preferred, and on this basis, the singers, often on their own volition, would change a note here or there to accord with these rules. This often resulted in bizarre sounds; the sopranos might sing a C-sharp while the tenors are singing a C-natural—which to our ears is nothing short of dissonance. The English composers, in particular, were fond of these clashes. In a few weeks, the choir will be singing *O nata lux* by Thomas Tallis. This piece contains one such moment that can sound like a wrong note to a listener who’s not expecting it. Yet, it is always fascinating to encounter these old ways of composing music, and it is a great way to recall that if the concept of harmony is represented by order, then there are many different ways of achieving this cohesiveness.

In other news, I recently released an EP of improvisations on synthesizer entitled *Into the Darkness*. It is available wherever you stream your music. Shortly I’ll also be releasing a new single, which doesn’t have a title yet. One of the challenges of making abstract instrumental music is figuring out what to call it!

**Michael Lawrence | music@stmarysatpenn.org**
Lenten Study

WITH ST. MARY'S & UNILU

Please join St. Mary's and UniLu this Lent for mid-week evenings of study, fellowship, and reflection.

6 PM Low Mass
6:30 PM Potluck Dinner
7 PM Program
7:45 PM Compline

No outside reading is required!
We will be using *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say* by Adam Hamilton as our source material.

We will be alternating locations between St. Mary's and UniLu weekly.

**Wednesday, March 4th**
University Lutheran
3637 Chestnut Street
Lesson: *Everything Happens for a Reason*

**Wednesday, March 18th**
University Lutheran
3637 Chestnut Street
Lesson: *God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle*

**Wednesday, March 11th**
St. Mary’s, Hamilton Village
3916 Locust Walk
Lesson: *God Helps Those Who Help Themselves*

**Wednesday, March 25th**
St. Mary’s
3916 Locust Walk
Lesson: *God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It*

**Wednesday, April 1st**
University Lutheran
3637 Chestnut Street
Lesson: *Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin*
Cook’s Corner

Two Quick and Easy Dinners for Any Time of Year

I cannot believe I haven’t given you this recipe because it was a tried and true one I’d make during the week while I was still working. It’s semi-homemade since you use canned clams, but it is tasty and comes together in no time at all. Plus, the ingredients are available all year long. You will need ½ cup olive oil; 8 oz. mushrooms, chopped; 1 medium onion, minced; 1 garlic clove, minced; ½ cup white wine or dry vermouth; parsley; 2 cans minced clams with their juice; ¼ cup grated cheese; 2 Tbsp. butter; 4 dashes white Worcestershire sauce (optional); red pepper flakes to taste (optional).

Heat oil in a large sauté pan until hot, then add chopped mushrooms and minced onions. I use my food processor to chop both since I like the pieces small, but chopping by hand works just fine. Sauté until the onions become translucent, add the garlic and sauté another minute, then add the white wine or vermouth and reduce until most of the wine is gone. Drain the clam juice into the pan reserving the clams, and add the parsley (about 1 Tbsp. dried or 2 Tbsp. fresh), and white Worcestershire sauce and red pepper flakes if using; cook down until reduced by half. Turn off the heat and add the clams, butter, and cheese; stir until combined. Add additional chopped parsley if you have it, and toss the sauce with 1 pound of linguini, spaghetti, or other pasta of choice (I like rotini)—a great meal in no time at all.

Next comes Coquilles San Jacques Façon du Chef (scallops and mushrooms in cream sauce) by Pierre Franey, a chef I introduced to you in the Winter 2018 newsletter. The cherry tomatoes you need are available year-round. The ingredients are 3 Tbsp. butter; 2 pints (pounds) scallops; 2 Tbsp. finely chopped shallots; 2 cups quartered or sliced fresh mushrooms; 12 cherry tomatoes; ¼ cup dry white wine; 1 cup heavy cream; 1 Tbsp. finely chopped parsley.

Heat 2 Tbsp. butter in a large skillet. Do not crowd the skillet; if the scallops are touching, they will not sear properly, in which case cook them in 2 batches. When the butter is quite hot but not browning, add the scallops; cook over high heat, shaking the skillet and stirring. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and cook about one to two minutes until lightly golden all over. The less cooking time, the better. Using a slotted spoon, remove scallops and keep warm. Add the shallots to the skillet and cook briefly; add the mushrooms and cherry tomatoes, and cook, stirring often about 1 minute. Add the wine and reduce by half. Add the cream and cook down over high heat about 3 minutes seasoning to taste with salt and pepper. Add the scallops turn off the heat swirl in the Tbsp. of butter. Sprinkle with parsley and serve with rice. Makes four servings. The chef suggests serving the scallops with baked rice, Riz au Four avec Pignolats, but I’m afraid I’m out of space so you’ll have to wait for next time for that one.

Bon appetit!

Martin Bodtmann  |  marbodt@aol.com
In December, my husband and I could not agree on what movie to watch. I wanted to see Downton Abbey and he wanted to see Judy. We finally agreed that we should each watch our own movie choice and meet in the lobby after the show. As we walked down Walnut Street, I gave my three sentence summary about the amazing cast, the costuming, and the lovely way that they wrapped up the many character’s story lines. As always, I scored Downton on the Hillman-Redman movie scale with a grade of a B+, maybe even an A-.

Then Marty went on a ten-minute rave about Judy and Renee Zellweger! He kept telling me that I must “come and see it next week!” Renee was transformed; she was Judy. There wasn’t a dry eye in the house at the end of the movie, and the audience gave the movie a standing ovation. “Sally, you simply must come and see this movie: Renee is going to win the Oscar for her performance!” The following Saturday I did “come and see” Judy, and I agreed with Marty that Renee should get an Oscar for her performance. (And she did!)

In the Good Book Club during Epiphanytide, we read John’s Gospel. We read small sections of the gospel a day, following along with a helpful study guide, and had a weekly meeting after coffee hour on Sundays that was led by either Deacon Barbara or Mother Mariclar. It was the perfect pace for me with all of my other responsibilities. I totally recommend joining into any other future Good Book Club activities. It is a rewarding experience for newbies and well-versed Bible-readers alike.

In John’s Gospel, Jesus tells his soon-to be-followers to “Come and See” several times. The new believers not only came and saw what Jesus said and did, but also become his first disciples. In this gospel, Jesus tells everyone time and time again who he is. Still some don’t get it, or are afraid of what will happen if it is true. But the very human request to “come and see” starts the followers of Christ down a path that leads to us in the church today.

I know that I have a hard time putting myself out there when asking friends and neighbors to attend church with me. Maybe you have similar feelings. Yet, I love coming to St. Mary’s each week for at least 20 different reasons! It fills my soul in ways that are hard to describe. I know that it begins with our beautiful building, the amazing fellowship, the inspirational sermons, the poignant language of the Episcopal service, and of course, the Eucharistic feast. When you get me going, I get tears in my eyes about St. Mary’s. Yet I still worry about being seen as some kind of religious nut when I ask someone to go to church with me.

Since I find it hard to extend an invitation to attend St. Mary’s, I have decided to use the words from Christ himself: “Come and See.”

Sally Hillman Redman | sally.h.redman@gmail.com
I am returning to the topic of the Wetherill Family and St. Mary’s due to a recent visit to the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove and finding a wonderful photograph of William H. Wetherill there. The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove is a National Audubon Society and Pennsylvania Audubon Education Center and serves as the headquarters of the Valley Forge Audubon Society. It is worth seeing.

It is seldom that one can see a photograph of an active parishioner of St. Mary’s from the 1900s. Mr. Wetherill, as you may recall, gave us the high altar created by his brother, the Rev. Joseph Wetherill, the lovely brass pulpit, and the bell tower. Here you see him sitting on the porch of Mill Grove, the first U.S. home of James Audubon, the naturalist and painter of birds. The photograph, taken in 1909 shows him holding his two dogs, Jack and Marg. He reminds me of Santa Claus which is appropriate because of his generosity to us.

Wetherill was an active member of the Society of Free Quakers as well as an Episcopalian. In the *Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania Biography: Illustrated, Volume 3*, pp. 813-814, there is more history on the tower:

‘In 1907 he caused to be erected a beautiful stone tower on that church, its graceful proportions terminating no feet above its base. This was in memory of his old friend, Harry Flickwir West, as is shown on a tablet placed in the room beneath: "To the glory of God, in loving memory of Harry Flickwir West, who died January 3, 1906, this spire is erected by his life long friend, William H. Wetherill." On October 20, 1907, the tower was dedicated with most impressive ceremony, and stands a memorial to friendship and generosity. The original plan called for a set of chimes, but the intent of the donor was prevented by the desire of the vestry to retain the old bell cast by J. Wiltbank in 1838, the sound of which is so familiar to the residents of the neighborhood, and for which the parish has an affectionate attachment. The tower memorial windows to the sisters of Mr. West are also the gift of Mr. Wetherill.'

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**Frank Innes | finnes@alum.drexel.edu**
Holy Week and Easter at St. Mary's, Hamilton Village
3916 Locust Walk | Phila., PA 19104

Wednesday, April 8th | Holy Wednesday
7 PM Tenebrae @ UniLu
(3637 Chestnut St.)
*

Thursday, April 9th | Maundy Thursday
7 PM Mass with Foot Washing
(No Candlelight Compline)
*

Friday, April 10th | Good Friday
Noon Traditional Service (St. Mary’s)
7 PM Contemporary Good Friday Service at UniLu (3637 Chestnut St.)
*

Saturday, April 11th | Easter Vigil
Time TBA

Sunday, April 12th | Easter Sunday
11 AM Feast of the Resurrection
B.Y.O. Basket!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Starts 12:45 PM (sharp!) at the Bell Tower steps on Locust Walk

Easter Sunday, April 12th
Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, March 1st
11 AM Mass with Guest Preacher, The Rev. Cn. Kirk Berlenbach and Forum Jazz Sanctuary, 3 PM

Wednesday, March 4th
Lenten Study at UniLu, 6 PM

March 7-15th
Penn Spring Break

No Tuesday Rosary and Low Mass

No Thursday Candlelight Compline

Sunday, March 8th
Lenten Conversations following 11 AM Mass: Prayer Book Spirituality

Wednesday, March 11th
Lenten Study at St. Mary’s, 6 PM

Sunday, March 15th
11 AM Mass
Third Sunday Brunch
Special Guest Forum with Cathy Davis of Hosts for Hospitals

Wednesday, March 18th
Lenten Study at UniLu, 6 PM

Saturday, March 21st
The Gatherings, 8 PM

Sunday, March 22nd
Lenten Conversations following 11 AM Mass: Prayer Book Spirituality

Wednesday, March 25th
Lenten Study at St. Mary’s, 6 PM

Sunday, March 29th
Lenten Conversations following 11 AM Mass: Prayer Book Spirituality

Monday, March, 30th
Schuylkill Deanery Field Trip Donations Due

Wednesday, April 1st
Lenten Study at UniLu, 6 PM

Sunday, April 5th
Palm Sunday 11 AM Mass

Thursday, April 9th
Maundy Thursday 7 PM Mass with Foot Washing

Wednesday, April 10th
Good Friday 12 PM Liturgy with Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Saturday, April 11th
Holy Saturday, The Great Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter Mass with Renewal of Baptismal Vows Time TBA

Sunday, April 12th
Easter Sunday 11 AM Mass

Friday, April 17th
Philadelphia SciFi Society, 7 PM

Sunday, April 19th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch following 11 AM Mass

Penn Collegium Concert, 6 PM

Thursday, April 23rd
Final Compline of Spring 2020 Semester, 8 PM

Saturday, April 25th
Schuylkill Deanery Field Trip

Tuesday, April 28th
Final Rosary and Low Mass of the Spring 2020 Semester, 11:45 AM

Wednesday, April 29th
Last Day of Penn Classes

Friday, May 1st–Sunday, May 3rd
Argent Combat Workshop, 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 2nd
The Gatherings, 8 PM

Sunday, May 3rd
Jazz Sanctuary, 3 PM

Worship Guild Opportunities
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 Brittany at 215-386-3916 or administrator@stmarysatpenn.org if you would like to help!

Find St. Mary’s on Social Media

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

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

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 interested, contact Brittany at administrator@stmarysatpenn.org

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### March 2020

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| Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:45 AM  
11 AM Mass and Forum | 3 11:45 AM Rosary Prayers  
12:15 PM Low Mass with Healing Prayers and Anointing | 4 Lenten Study, 6 PM (UniLu) | 5 UCHC Dinner  
Thursday Night Candlelight Compline 8 PM | 6 | 7  
PENN SPRING BREAK BEGINS  
UCHC Lunch, 11 AM |
| 8 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:45 AM  
11 AM Mass  
Lenten Conversation  
FaSoLa Shape Note, 5 PM | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| PENN SPRING BREAK  
NO ROSARY OR LOW MASS | PENN SPRING BREAK  
NO ROSARY OR LOW MASS | Lenten Study, 6 PM (St. Mary’s) | UCHC Dinner  
PENN SPRING BREAK  
NO COMPLINE | | | UCHC Lunch, 11 AM |
| 15 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:45 AM  
11 AM Mass  
Third Sunday Brunch w/ Forum | 16 PENN CLASSES RESUME | 17 11:45 AM Rosary Prayers  
12:15 PM Low Mass with Healing Prayers and Anointing | 18 Lenten Study, 6 PM (UniLu) | 19 UCHC Dinner  
Thursday Night Candlelight Compline 8 PM | 20 | 21 |
| | | 11:45 AM Rosary Prayers  
12:15 PM Low Mass with Healing Prayers and Anointing | | | UCHC Lunch, 11 AM |
| 22 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:45 AM  
11 AM Mass  
Lenten Conversations | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | 11:45 AM Rosary Prayers  
12:15 PM Low Mass with Healing Prayers and Anointing  
Vestry Meeting, 7 PM | Lenten Study, 6 PM (St. Mary’s) | UCHC Dinner  
Thursday Night Candlelight Compline 8 PM | | UCHC Lunch, 11 AM |
| 29 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:45 AM  
11 AM Mass  
Lenten Conversations | 30 Schuylkill Deanery Field Trip Donations Due | 31 11:45 AM Rosary Prayers  
12:15 PM Low Mass with Healing Prayers and Anointing | | | | |

**Note:** Field Trip Donations Due on March 30th.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 PAAM SUNDAY</td>
<td>6 11:45 AM Rosary Prayers</td>
<td>7 UCHC Lunch, 11 AM</td>
<td>8 HOLY WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>9 PALM SUNDAY</td>
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<td>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Sunday School 10:45 AM</td>
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<td>Sunday Mass</td>
<td>Sunday Mass</td>
<td>Jazz Sanctuary, 3 PM</td>
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<td>Sunday School 10:45 AM</td>
<td>Sunday Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>20 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>21 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>22 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>23 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>24 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LAST DAY OF PENN CLASSES</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF PENN CLASSES</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF PENN CLASSES</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF PENN CLASSES</td>
<td>JUST ROSARY, 11:45 AM</td>
<td>FINAL LOW MASS, 12:15 PM</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Vestry Meeting, 7 PM</td>
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April 2020
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<td>2 UHC Lunch, 11 AM</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>30 UHC Lunch, 11 AM</td>
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<td>MEMORIAL DAY</td>
<td>Vestry Meeting, 7 PM</td>
<td>Wing</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>11 AM Mass</td>
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<td>PENTECOST</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>11 AM Mass</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Sunday School 10:45 AM</td>
<td>11 AM Mass</td>
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Arts and Culture at St. Mary’s

For decades, St. Mary’s 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. Today, we have the pleasure of providing space for rehearsals and auditions in our Parish Hall and our sanctuary is often transformed into a concert space and a stage for theatrical productions! We are dedicated to supporting the Arts in University City and West Philadelphia.

The Bearded Ladies have been very busy! In January, Philadelphians and New Yorkers alike had the opportunity to enjoy Blythely Ever After (co-written and directed by John Jarboe and developed in collaboration with The Bearded Ladies Cabaret and Opera Philadelphia) both in-person at the Lincoln Center and via livestream at Christ Church Neighborhood House. In February, they hosted Visioning Liberation and Undoing White Supremacy, facilitated by Daniel Park. This workshop enabled theatre artists to explore frameworks for better analyzing how interlocking systems of oppression uphold a culture of white supremacy with a focus on theatre, gain inspiration from the ways that artists-as-labor have used their skills to actively disrupt oppressive power systems, and collectively vision a liberated future of theatre making and strategize on how we bring that future into being. Our talented friends have also set sail for New Zealand with their beloved production, Do You Want a Cookie? Bon voyage, Beards! We will miss you very much throughout March and April and hope you have a magnificent time overseas!

Our in-house theatrical swordfighters, Argent Combat, had a very productive Winter! This February, instructor J. Oliver Donahue and his students closed a 16-week certification course in smallsword for aspiring actor-combatants and enthusiasts. The class culminated with students taking the Society of American Fight Directors’ Skills Proficiency Test which, when passed, certified them in the longsword discipline. The SPT’s were conducted in St. Mary’s Parish Hall and were overseen by SAFD Fight Master, Ian Rose. In celebration of Philly Theatre Week (February 6 – 16, 2020), Argent hosted a class of introductory unarmed stage combat and theatrical swordplay on February 15th titled Heart of Violence, where first-timers had the opportunity to experience both unarmed and single-sword stage combat. Argent Combat will also be conducting a weekend Taste of Violence workshop for beginners the evenings of May 1st to May 3rd and a certification course in unarmed, which started on January 30th. These are great opportunities for folks who are curious about stage combat to give it a try before committing to a full certification course. St. Marians who would like to embrace their inner Errol Flynn can use the code “gladio” for a special discount at argentcombat.eventbrite.com. To learn more about Argent Combat, visit www.argentcombat.com!

The first Sunday of every month from now until June, St. Mary’s is pleased to co-host Jazz Sanctuary! This partnership between Penn Music, Drexel University Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, St. Mary’s, and The Jazz Sanctuary offers college-aged music students a place to improv jam with the House Band composed of instructors from Penn and Drexel (the Jazz Sanctuary showcases some of the most accomplished Philadelphia Style Jazz musicians from the area) and an opportunity to gain the education and experience of playing with professionals. There is no cost and all are welcome to either listen and enjoy the music or to participate and play the great American music invention Jazz! To learn more, visit www.thejazzsanctuary.com.
The **UCity West Coast Swing** will welcome Spring by meeting Wednesday nights in our Parish Hall. UCWCS offers beginner and advanced lessons, and periodically brings in professional teachers and DJs. Their goal is to create an environment where everyone can learn this amazing dance and have an excellent night of dancing, regardless of their skill level. They are also an open-role degendered dancing community, so regardless of which role you prefer, you are welcome to join! A typical UCWCS event is an hour of lessons and two hours of West Coast swing dancing! Show up for either their newcomer-friendly fundamentals series or their advanced-beginner/intermediate class! Their beginner series is a sequence of four classes that build on each other to get you out on the dance floor! First class is free! For more, visit www.facebook.com/groups/UCSwing!

Another Wednesday night favorite are the fine martial artists of **Youth Martial Arts of Philadelphia**, whose mission is to increase personal and physical development for youth in Philadelphia by offering a safe place for physical activity and personal growth through the traditional Chung Do Kwan style of Tae Kwon Do at little or no cost. They seek to remove economic barriers to youth martial arts and to ensure inclusiveness. For more information on how to enroll and about class policies, please contact instructor Dave, dave@youthmartialartsphilly.org.

The **Gatherings**, an ongoing series of Space, Ambient, Electronic and Ethereal music performances, provide a rare opportunity for Spacemusic enthusiasts to mingle with each other and to experience this music performed live. Chuck van Zyl plus Vic Hennegan return to The Gatherings Concert Series at 8 PM on Saturday 21 March 2020 for a Free Admission event. A musician of the imagination Chuck van Zyl provides concerts of epic intimacy in a digital age. With over 30 years experience he has learned that the possibilities of Electronic Music make it the perfect tool for exploring spontaneous composition. Taking each member of the audience on their own personal journey the music reaches toward the unseen depths within us all. With its deep space gateways and Berlin-School sequencer breakdowns on down to quietly consuming dark fields, this music invites wonder. Anyone in love with Spacemusic and its very specific poetry will want to attend this event. Vic Hennegan is part of an electronic brotherhood that spans continents and centuries. Influenced by innovative works and acts dating back to the pioneers of Electronic Music, his music traces a through line - from the birth of synthesizers to the fusion of rock/pop global grooves. This tasty spacey music aims to heighten our sensitivities and common yearnings for a better world. In his heart Vic Hennegan keeps the entire Universe and with each concert he shares something of it with the world. Jeff Pearce returns as Bob Holroyd makes his state-side debut within the reverential sanctuary space of St Mary’s Hamilton Village (3916 Locust Walk, Philadelphia) at The Gatherings Concert Series at 8:00PM on Saturday, May 2nd.

For information on more of 2020’s upcoming performances, visit www.thegatherings.org.
On January 29th, St. Mary’s had hosted another Annenberg Center of the Performing Arts debut: Scotland’s Gramophone Award–winning baroque ensemble, Dunedin Consort! Acclaimed for their joyously vivid music-making, the Dunedin Consort and featured mezzo-soprano soloist Meg Bragle promise an inimitably fresh performance of “Bach at his most ravishing.” (The Independent) Under the direction of the preeminent Bach scholar John Butt, Dunedin Consort is recognized for its inquisitive approach, shining new light into some of the best-known pieces of the Baroque repertoire.

Since February, St. Mary’s has welcomed the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society for their monthly meetings every second Friday! PSFS was established in 1936 and is the second oldest extant group in science fiction fandom. It hosted what is considered by some to be the first science fiction convention. Anyone living in the greater Philadelphia area and interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror, whether written or on TV or in the movies; SF, fantasy, and horror art; gaming, board games or video games; comic books/graphic novels; and related arts is welcome!

For the academic year 2019-20 the University of Pennsylvania Music Department community is reflecting on its theme, Migrations, through performances, creative endeavors, teaching, and scholarship. St. Mary’s will have a very busy April hosting two performances: The University of Pennsylvania Chorale on April 5th and Collegium Musicum on the 19th!

The Penn Chorale is a newly formed choral ensemble, making its debut in the 2019-2020 Academic Year. They perform a variety of choral music with a special emphasis on repertoire written in 21st and late 20th centuries. The Penn Chorale rehearses once a week and perform two concerts each year. On Sunday, April 5th, all are welcome to join us for an afternoon of choral music that invites the listener to ponder the wonder of the stars, and how wondering at the stars invites us to consider the wonder in our own lives. There will be music of Randall Thompson, Jake Runestad, and Morten Lauridsen and poetry of Robert Frost, Wendell Berry, and James Agee. We invite you to come and '...Choose something like a star / to stay our minds on and be staid.'

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, the choir has a special interest in historically-informed performance practice. Led by Meg Bragle, Penn Collegium Musicum performs two concerts per year. For their spring concert, Collegium Musicum continues to incorporate the Music Department Theme of the year: Migrations by focusing on the music of Spain and Mexican Baroque. Many of the earliest composers in Spanish colonial Mexico came from the Iberian Peninsula, creating a repertoire based in the European tradition but infused with elements of indigenous rhythms and dances.
West Philly Square Dance, a community old-time "revival" square dance which meets once a month in our parish hall, is back for the Spring! We can look forward to their return to enjoy traditional dance with live music and a rotation of callers. People of all genders are invited and welcome to join us at the West Philly Square Dance. In the spirit of enthusiastic inclusivity, WPSD endeavors to find callers who are excited about breaking down gender binaries by calling dances accordingly and works towards creating and using new language for traditional dances that uses terms that are not gender specific. As a newer community, this space is a work in progress, and as they work towards a truly LGBTQ+ friendly space, they promise to start by always inviting all folks to dance in whichever roles they want. All ages, orientations, and levels of experience are welcome! Dances and steps are always taught, and these events are BYOB for those over 21! To learn more, visit www.westphillysquaredance.com!

FaSoLa Shape Note Sing continues at 5 PM every Second Sunday of the month in the Parish Hall; breaking in the middle for a potluck and fellowship. For readers not familiar, shape-note singing is community music that takes its name from the four shaped notes patented in Philadelphia in 1798: Fa, Sol, La, and Mi. This living singing tradition is unlike any other form of American sacred music both in its vibrant sound and in its distinctive singing practice. All are welcome to sing with us or just listen! No experience is necessary and singing books are provided. For more information, see www.phillysacredharp.org or talk to St. Mary’s own Thomas Ward!

The Penn Band was founded in 1897 and ever since has been one of the University’s most progressive traditions. The organization is a part of the Department of Athletics at the University of Pennsylvania; like most of the other 50+ performing arts groups on the Penn Campus, the Penn Band has no affiliation with any academic department and is sponsored by the Vice Provost's Office for Undergraduate Life. The organization today is almost 130 members-strong and stands among the largest and most active student-run organizations on-campus, performing upwards of 100 times during the academic year and the guardians of all things 'Red and Blue.' The organization boasts a rich history of performance, including performances with the renowned band masters like John Phillip Sousa, Roland Seitz, and Edwin Franko Goldman, the first collegiate band to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, countless recordings, national broadcasts and concerts, and performing at the pleasure of numerous American presidents and state leaders.

Our sanctuary has been chosen as the location for their next album recording session in May! Penn Band has had several recording sessions in the Sanctuary going back all the way to the 1970s. We look forward to continuing the tradition!

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
The parish is in great shape financially as you can see by the budget compared with actual income and expenses for 2019. We had a healthy surplus and our cash reserves for future capital expenditures are very good as well. We should all offer prayers of thanks to God and acknowledge our Rector and parish leaders, volunteers, and staff for their faithful stewardship.

### Treasurer’s Report

![Treasurer’s Report Table]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Mary’s Hamilton Village, Operating Budget, 2019 Actuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Revenue and Expenses</td>
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<td>12 months = 100.0%</td>
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<th>General Operating Budget</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
<th>YTD Total</th>
<th>As % of 2019 budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>REVENUE</td>
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<td>Congregational Giving</td>
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<td>Plate (not 1st Sunday)</td>
<td>2,450</td>
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<td>Pledge</td>
<td>85,000</td>
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<td>Occasional/Designated</td>
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<td>Building Revenue</td>
<td>115,900</td>
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<td>Reimbursements/Copier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altar Guild Income</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>2,314</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other - Surplus/Grant Support</td>
<td>2,505</td>
<td>2,505</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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</table>

| Total Income             | 268,510     | 274,508   | 102.2%              |

| EXPENSES                 |             |           |                     |
| Outside Giving           | 13,840      | 13,805    | 99.7%               |
| Program Expense *        | 17,570      | 21,600    | 122.9%              |
| Physical Plant           | 28,970      | 32,691    | 112.8%              |
| Personnel                | 206,120     | 195,388   | 94.8%               |
| Financial Expense **     | 875         | 1,024     | 117.0%              |
| Altar Guild Expenses     | 1,050       | 1,186     | 113.0%              |

| Total Expenses           | 268,425     | 265,694   | 99.0%               |

| 2019 YTD Balance (Deficit)| 8,814       |           |                     |

Frank Innes | finnes@alum.drexel.edu
Vestry Minutes
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
November 12, 2019, 7 – 8:30 PM

Present: Jonathan Ashton, Mariclair Partee Carlsen, Frank Innes, Vanessa Albert Lowry, Sally Hillman Redman, Sophia Reeder, Karen Stachelek, Barbara Tobin, Aaron Todd

Spiritual Practice – Mariclair

Information

Approval of October minutes- Sally moved, Sophia seconded. Unanimously approved.

Rector’s Update:

Robin Foster Drain resignation, and replacement thoughts
Robin resigned from the vestry citing her previous concerns about our use of the annual self-audit, which the diocese recommends for a parish of our size, instead of paying for a professional audit by an outside accountant. Please think of ideas of how we can thank Robin for her vestry service.

Audit fact gathering update- We have one quote so far of $3500 for a document compilation, $4500 for a review, and $6500 for a full audit by an accountant. We are considering this for next year, and have to include the cost in our proposed 2020 budget. A full audit would be a good idea to do as we haven’t had professional help in this arena for a while, so this will help us to optimize our practices/systems. However, we are not concerned that our money is being spent irresponsibly. We think, going forward, we won’t do this every year, but as needed. Sophia reached out to her accountant friend, but he is now retired and no longer does this work. Mariclair is pursuing an estimate from an accountant who attends University Lutheran, so we can compare costs. Cassandra Royall and Joanne Kellerman agreed to do the self-audit again this year.

Summer 2020 parking situation 4-6 weeks Penn needs to install A/C to two of the dorms. They reached out to Mariclair to let us know. At some point after graduation, we will have limited access to the staff side parking for 4-6 weeks. SMNS side will be inaccessible for 2-3 weeks. Penn will provide some temporary replacement parking. Possible to hook us into Penn fiber optics network improving internet at St. Mary’s. Mariclair looking into this.

Parish Hall construction- One quote is in, one is coming this week from Bluestone, possible third quote, meeting TBA once the three bids are in. We may have to limit scope of the project depending on final estimate.

November 15th Spaghetti Fundraiser- bring everyone you know! $10 for adults, $5-$12 for kids, $20 for family.
Vestry Minutes

Deacon’s Update:

Saturday, November 16, 1-3:30PM – Traumatic Grief and Community Violence in Philadelphia Neighborhoods Panel Discussion at the Cathedral. Flyers are available in the office. Event brite sign up. Really great speakers, someone from Uplift Center for Grieving Children, a CHOP doctor, and more.


Sunday, Third Brunch – Letters for justice women and children bill proposed by senators (voting on).

Sunday, December 1 – intergenerational advent wreath-making after the service. Pruners are needed.

Jon Gardner, priest from Holy Trinity (Rittenhouse Square) wants to know if we could get volunteers to work in their code blue setting (when temperatures get lower than 32). Shelter for homeless individuals. Two shifts per night so no one has to be up all night.

Discussion

Interpretation by Holy Cow! Founder, Emily Swanson:

Intros.

Holy Cow! has existed for 25 years working with congregations around the country. St. Mary’s benchmarked against 1800 other congregations. St. Mary’s is a smaller-than-average congregation. Had 47 respondents, representing 92% of average of attendance.

Satisfaction – peace fulfillment, wholeness, belonging, very high satisfaction, no one clearly disagrees.

Energy – Also “very high” energy

Three priorities identified:
1 – Growth – reach new people and incorporate them
2 – Growth – necessary changes to attract families with children and youth
3 – Renew and revitalize community around the church by building coalitions.
Vestry Minutes

Action

Treasurer’s Report- Frank provided a report through October. Vanessa moved to approve, Sally seconded. Unanimously approved.

Vote to reimburse Sarto $258.24 for costs related to the renovations: architectural engineering costs. Vote for $1000 one line for motion. Frank moved, Sophia seconded. Unanimously approved.

Closing Prayer – Mariclair

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
December 17, 2019, 7 – 8:15PM

Present: Mariclair Partee Carlsen, Frank Innes, Sally Hillman Redman, Sophia Reeder, Karen Stachelek, Barbara Tobin, Aaron Todd

Absent: Jonathan Ashton, Vanessa Albert Lowry

Spiritual Practice – Mariclair

Information

Approval of November minutes – Frank moved, Sophia seconded. Unanimously approved.

Rector’s Update:

Bearded Ladies’ Cabaret (BLC) Lease

The BLC rental contract allows for a two-month grace period, during which they pay a reduced rate, if one of their two resident theater companies (and primary revenue sources) moves out. The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium (IRC) recently moved out. So, BLC is paying $420 less in rent for two months, after which the rate returns to normal in February. BLC also owes St. Mary’s a 3% rental fee increase dating back to November 2019. Their contract stipulates a 3% rental fee increase in November every year.
Renovation Quotes
Scott, Mariclair, and Sarto visited sites that contractor Al Panaccio has worked on. Al Panaccio is one of the contractors St. Mary’s is considering for installation of the ADA compliant bathroom and renovation of the Parish Hall and existing restrooms. One site they viewed was an in-process Thai restaurant. The restaurant owners spoke highly of Panaccio. The group also visited a furniture store in which Panaccio’s team had completed the finish work, which wasn’t fancy, but it was suitable. They’re a “get it done” company. Mariclair feels they would be a good option. Mariclair also reached out to some contacts of Sally’s husband Marty who are smaller contractors that do this kind of work. We are waiting for a few estimates to come back from these additional contacts.

5-year Strategic Plan
In 2020, the Vestry will form a strategic plan for where we want St. Mary’s to go next. We will construct a 5-year plan using the results of the Holy Cow! Congregational assessment as a guide. For the January 28 meeting, the vestry is asked to read the packet Mariclair provided excerpted from Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann.

Organ repair
Mariclair and Michael Lawrence are seeking quotes from other organ repair companies, as the company we’ve historically used (which was sold in the past few years) hasn’t been as responsive as we would like.

The Final playing and preserving concert is this Saturday, December 21.

Deacon’s Update:

Episcopal Community Services drive. This year, St. Mary’s parishioners successfully provided Christmas gifts to 25 in-need children through the ECS toy drive. Thanks to all who participated.

January 11 – Schuylkill deanery event. The Schuylkill Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of PA is hosting an event in partnership with the Able Center at The Church of the Holy Apostles and The Mediator, which provides resources for homeless and individuals reentering society after serving jail sentences, primarily focused on eldercare healthcare.

January 18 – Women’s March
3rd Sunday Brunch Letters – We will resume our letter writing at brunch in January and we’ll use some letters that David from ECS will provide us.

November 15th Spaghetti Fundraiser- We raised $200 in profit from this event.
Vestry Minutes

Discussion

Congregational Assessment and Interpretation
We would like more people and more kids. Overall, very positive response. Ripe fields include theological formation and small groups. A good model is the previous Death and Dying after-church series. Fellowship opportunities. Invite/Welcome/Connect program. It’s a challenge for newcomers to get involved. Let’s explore this program for tips to get folks involved and build relationships. Explore creating a pamphlet with information on volunteer roles in the church.

2018 Audit Results
Joanne Kellerman and Cassandra Royall helped Frank with the self-audit. The audit is now complete and has been submitted to the diocese. We still need a list of physical objects in the sanctuary. And we must draft instructions for new counters who count the Sunday plate collection. Planned Giving campaign. Share what others have done with planned giving. Leaving money for the organ, etc. 2019 audit will be completed concurrent with the 2019 parochial report.

Action

Treasurer’s Report- Frank provided a report through November. Aaron moved to approve, Sophia seconded. Unanimously approved.

Finance Committee Overview- Most 2020 pledges remained at the same levels as the previous year. A few members who gave last year have since moved away. But we have some new folks who currently give in plate. The pledge difference is about a $5000 reduction in total pledges as compared to last year.

Approve Roofing Work, Russell Roofing- We have a few small leaks in the sanctuary. Russell Roofing came in for an estimate and quoted us $2987. Sophia made a motion to approve this amount, Sally seconded. Unanimously approved.

Acceptance of Mariclar’s 2020 Housing Allowance Declaration- motion by Sophia, Frank seconded. Unanimously approved.
Vestry Minutes

Closing Prayer – Mariclair

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
January 28, 2020, 7 – 8:30PM

Present: Jonathan Ashton, Mariclair Partee Carlsen, Frank Innes, Vanessa Albert Lowry, Sally Hillman Redman, Karen Stachelek, Barbara Tobin, Aaron Todd

Absent: Sophia Reeder

Spiritual Practice – Mariclair

Information

Approval of December minutes – Frank moved, Sally seconded. Unanimously approved.
Vestry Minutes

Rector’s Update:

**Pancake Supper, February 25th – 5:30 – 7PM**
Mariclair will chat with Juan. We are again in need of those individuals who help out every year.

Parish Hall Renovations
We got a third bid, it was substantially higher than the second highest bid. Sarto is reconnecting with the middle bid to see if there’s wiggle room with the price. Lowest bid is coming to the church to inspect.

Organ
The organ builder came today to provide an estimate of the cost. We received $50K from Sacred Places and it is now gaining money market interest.

Good Book Club is going well.

During Lent we will have an prayer book discussion.

Deacon’s Update:

**Women’s March**
Frank and Barbara attended the Women’s March. Thank you, Frank and Barbara!

**3rd Sunday brunch Senator letter writing** – This has been a great success. We will continue this letter writing campaign.

**UCHC dinners** are going well. We are in need of some additional volunteers to help with cleaning up after dinner.

Discussion

**Spaghetti Fundraiser** offer by Juan Ocampo to benefit St. Mary’s outreach ministries.

**Budget for 2020**
Frank provided a line-by-line report of the proposed budget for 2020.
Vestry Minutes

Introduction to Strategic Planning
We will start this during the February meeting.

Action

Treasurer’s Report- Frank provided a report through December. Sally moved to approve, Jonathan seconded. Unanimously approved.

Finance Committee Overview- Frank wrote up a detailed instruction manual for Sunday counters. Thank you, Frank!

Budget Approval- Aaron moved to approve budget pending amendment of $2700 for professional audit costs, Vanessa seconded. Unanimously approved.

Closing Prayer – Mariclar
Digital Catechumenate

You might have noticed a new feature in our weekly e-newsletter and on stmarysatpenn.org, the Digital Catechumenate: Education for All. This is a collection of online resources for deepening your walk with Christ, including seasonal resources for individuals and families, recommended podcasts featuring theological exploration, scripture interpretation, and guided prayer, and various apps for getting to know the Book of Common Prayer, praying the Daily Office for all levels from beginner to advanced, and trying other spiritual disciplines like the Ignatian Examen. Check it regularly, as the resources change so that there is truly something for everyone!

Resources are updated frequently!

To access these links directly, visit

www.stmarysatpenn.org/education-for-all

or subscribe to our weekly eBlast!
A Prayer for Spring

O God, we know that our days are in your hands. We ask that you guide us so that we might work towards your will in all that we undertake, give us strength and courage to see our endeavors through, and in their completion remind us of the love and joy you make possible in this sinful and broken world. Amen.