



St. Mary's Episcopal  
Church

Where Word and Sacrament  
come together  
in Celebration and Service



**TIDINGS**

**Summer 2018**

***Alleluia. Christ is Risen!  
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

Dear Friends,

God bless you as you celebrate the risen life of Christ and our new life in him. Thank you to you all who planned and participated in the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. "Surely the Presence of the Lord was in this place."

A lot is happening right now. Fr. Bob Douglas is preparing to move to St. Mark's in Tampa to be rector there. You will find his comments on the following page. We have been blessed to have him and Elaine with us for the past two years and will miss them both even while we celebrate with them this new step in ministry. We will honor them at the parish Spaghetti Dinner on May 11, sponsored by Family Ministries, and after the 10:00 am Eucharist on Sunday, May 13, Fr. Bob's last Sunday with us. If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift, please mark your check "Fr. Bob."

The Vestry and I are looking at how we provide sufficient priestly ministry for St. Mary's. (Until recently we had two and a half priests, along with others who helped us in various ways. Now there is just me.) A key part of the challenge is that we have not been providing the financial support needed for St. Mary's life and ministries. Senior Warden Tim Blaicher has urged us examine our giving and increase our support. I add my voice to his in saying *Thank you!* to those who have responded and to encourage those who have not

done so to join in.

We say good-bye to our seasonal members and pray that your travel will be safe and your time elsewhere be blessed. We love having you as part of St. Mary's. We miss you when you are gone and delight in your return.

St. Mary's is a substantial Episcopal Church even in the summer, as this issue shows. Worship, learning, pastoral care and outreach continue vigorously. Our big summer event, described elsewhere in this issue, is our patronal celebration of St. Mary the Virgin on Sunday, August 12. If possible, please make your plans to be here that Sunday in particular. If you are unable to be here in person, please pray for and give thanks for St. Mary's wherever you are that day.

Please pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on St. Mary's and all our people.

God bless you.

Fr. Michael



# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

## Farewell to St. Mary's



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is impossible to express in mere words the depth of gratitude that Elaine and I have in our hearts for the good people of St. Mary's. We came as strangers almost two years ago and we were welcomed as friends.

We treasure the time that we have spent working with you for the benefit of the Kingdom of God. Although we are excited about the future with St. Mark's, we have a heaviness in our hearts about leaving the hundreds of people we have come to love and cherish. I believe that as we have worshipped and studied together we have honored and glorified our God.

I want to thank Fr. Michael for his trust in calling me to St. Mary's, and providing mentorship and counsel as I continued to walk in my call to the priesthood. I would be remiss if I did not note my appreciation to Mothers Bobbie and Gail, Fathers George, Al, and David for their exhortation,

encouragement, and prayer coverage that lifted me up when I most needed it. I am better prepared to be the next rector of St. Mark's because of the guidance I have been provided.

It is my sincerest prayer that St. Mary's and her people continue to flourish, and the Good News of Jesus always be proclaimed in this place.

If you are in the Tampa area, please visit with us!

Love to All,  
Fr. Bob and Elaine

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## A Message from the Senior Warden

I would like to thank those parishioners and friends of St. Mary's who have responded to my letter requesting consideration of making a special donation to the church. I am pleased to report that through April 12th, more than 30 parishioners and friends have donated an additional \$38,000. We have received four pledges from parishioners who had not previously pledged for 2018.

Your gifts have raised almost half of what we need to truly balance our budget. Again, I ask those who have not responded to please consider a special donation of any amount so that we may continue God's work at St. Mary's. This is not just a seasonal effort but continues throughout the year.

I also want to remind our parishioners that in May

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2014, the church borrowed \$155,000 to replace certain air conditioning units and make certain other improvements to the physical plant. The loan can be described as a “balloon mortgage” as it has a final payment due on May 28, 2019 of slightly more than \$116,000. We have been making the monthly payments as required but the balloon is only slightly more than one year away. Although I will not be on the vestry in 2019, my greatest hope is to have this mortgage balance significantly reduced as of the end of this year. This would give us a reasonable opportunity to renegotiate the loan as we have shown good faith in repaying this loan. After all, faith is what St. Mary’s is all about.

As Christians, we believe that “God will provide”; that is God’s grace. I know that this is true, but we must be diligent in our efforts. The Lord’s work cannot be done at no cost. It is not reasonable to expect our clergy and lay staff to work for free. Likewise, we cannot expect FPL, Bonita Springs Utilities, our landscape maintenance company and our insurance carrier to supply their services at no charge. Additionally, we have an obligation to the Diocese of Southwest Florida approximating \$87,000 for 2018. If we are to do all that we need to do, “Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.”

May God bless us all.

Tim Blaicher



## **Thy Kingdom Come**

### **Presiding Bishop joins Worldwide Anglican Communion campaign**

For the second year, Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has joined the worldwide Anglican Communion in *Thy Kingdom Come*, a campaign initiated by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby calling for prayer by individuals, congregations and families.

*Thy Kingdom Come* is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day (May 10) and the Feast of Pentecost (May 20) for more people to come to know Jesus.



“Jesus taught us to pray ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done’,”

Would you pray a Novena to the Holy Spirit - eleven days of prayer following Jesus' direction to his first followers and their example, constantly devoting themselves to prayer from the Ascension through to the Feast of Pentecost?

We have printed copies of the Novena available in the narthex as well as the office that can be used to pray alongside the Body of Christ.

Additional resources can be found at:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/uploads/resources/tkc-prayer-journal-2018-download1.pdf>

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

## The Mourner's Path



***Believe grieving is not a lack of faith but a natural part of living, By inviting God into the pain, healing occurs.***

St. Mary's Episcopal in Bonita Springs had the pleasure of hosting a Walking the Mourner's Path Facilitator Training School on April 12 - 14 to train six men and women for the program. This training is promoted within the Diocese and many parishes within the Diocese have initiated these programs. Catherine Gilbert - Program Director – joined us from Arizona to lead the workshop and we were blessed to have her share her ministry with us.

Walking the Mourner's Path is a Christ-Centered Grief Program to meet the needs of those in grief. It is an eight-week workshop of small groups facilitated by trained laity and a member of the clergy. Weekly homework assignment together with prayer, meditations and exercises enhance healing and forge new friendships.

Walking the Mourner's Path is an inspired and thoughtful program to share with others the pain

and loss of a loved one. Great comfort can be achieved when sharing similar experiences and feelings. It is a safe and confidential environment for sharing.

Currently six members of St. Mary's are certified facilitators of the program: Robert Raubolt, Ian Mitchell, Nancy Vaughn, Joe Danielle, Pat Nelson, and Jeanette Turansky. St. Mary's plans to run an eight-week program this summer in the July / August timeframe. To be considered to attend the program please contact the church office or speak to one of the trained facilitators.

To learn more about the program go to [www.mournerspath.com](http://www.mournerspath.com)

In His Name,

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### **Harvest Time Ministries A St. Mary's Outreach Activity**

Harvest Time Ministries is a community outreach organization focused on the needs of migrant agricultural workers, temporary workers and other low-income communities in Bonita Springs and its surrounding area. Its officers and members are all volunteers recruited from churches and other charitable organizations in the Bonita Springs area. St. Mary's members have played a major role for almost 10 years. Activities include providing food, clothing and household goods, and assisting with other needs as they arise. Financial support is provided by area churches, other charitable organizations and individual donations. Bi-weekly visits to the camps include distribution

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of food, clothing and housewares. The visits also include inspirational music and a spiritual message led by Church of Jesus de la Rocca clergy to provide emotional and spiritual support. The music and message are in Spanish.

St. Mary's members, organized by Fred Cable, have lead roles in the procurement and distribution of food and other needed household items. This past year, about 20 members of St. Mary's met every other Friday morning (from November through March) to pack and load approximately 120 grocery-size bags of food and to help organize peanut butter, jelly, and donated baked goods, as well as diapers, clothing and other items. On the following Saturday morning St. Mary's members travel first to a community that houses migrant workers and their families, and then to a low-income mobile home community to distribute the food and other goods. In December, St. Mary's members purchased, wrapped and distributed toys and clothing to all of the children (almost 100) in the two communities. All of us feel truly blessed to be working on this project which we believe plays a small part in improving the lives of the working families, particularly the children.



## **Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's Church (ECW)**

**Executive Board** - The ECW Executive Board welcomes Sandy York as "Reaching Out" Chairperson, Doris Bialowas, Chairperson for Lunch Bunch and Marj Klein, Chairperson for Minister's Luncheons to the ECW Executive Board. All are certain to be wonderful additions to our leadership team.

**United Thank Offering (UTO)** - This year's UTO campaign focused on giving daily thanks for blessings through offerings raised \$1,497.50 which will be used to support the innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church. The Executive Board approved an additional donation to increase our total offerings to \$2,000! We are so thankful and blessed!

**Fundraising** - ECW ladies sponsored the recent Eastertide Bake Sale! A special thank you to all who baked, donated and supported this festive event. Together we raised over \$1000.00

**Stay at Home Tea** - Exciting plans are in place to conduct our annual summer fundraiser. Doris Bialowas has graciously offered to lead this treasured pastime event together with support from all ECW. This annual fundraiser supports most of our budget throughout the year. Letters to all ladies at St. Mary's will be mailed in early July.

**Ministry** - The inspirational Book Club, led by Mother Bobbi, continues to flourish weekly with many attendees.

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**Hospitality-Foyer Groups** - Beryl Chickarella has kindly assumed leadership for Foyer Groups; supported by Pat Thwaite during seasonal months.

**Upcoming Lunch Bunch** - Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM at Tacos & Tequila Cantina in North Naples. Lunch Bunch for month of May will be May 31, 12:00PM at Pelicans Nest Country Club.

**Programs – Upcoming Programs: Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend!**

- May 10 - Barefoot Beach Butterfly Garden Tour/Lunch

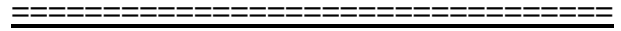


- June 14 - Stay at Home Tea Preparations



## ECW MEETINGS

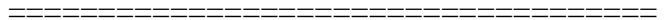
All ladies are invited to join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month for the monthly meeting, and the last Thursday of the month for Lunch Bunch.



*ECW of St. Mary's is a welcoming group of ladies devoted to supporting our church community, and each other through growth in all ways; spiritual, community outreach, informational, transformational and a lot of fun!*

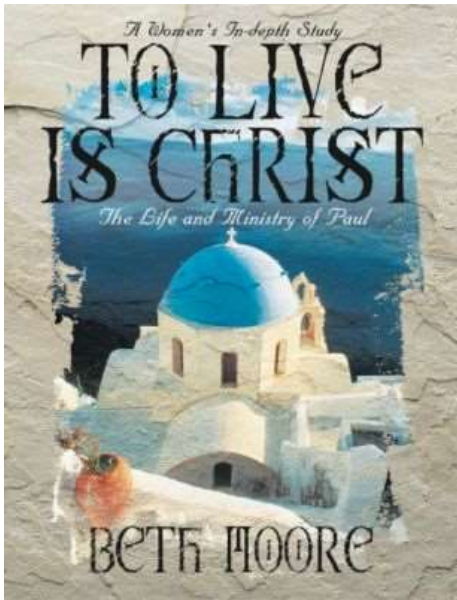
*Every lady is a member!*

*Please join us as we celebrate God's love and life at St. Mary's!*



# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

## “TO LIVE IS CHRIST” A Beth Moore Bible Study



St. Mary's Christian Formation Bible Study will be offering an eleven session study beginning Sunday May 6th at 1:00 in the PLC. See how you can live fully as a servant to Christ.

More than any other person, Paul provides us an example of sold-out servanthood. He understood what it means to die daily, crucified with Jesus Christ. As a result, Paul shows us how to live fully as a bond servant to Christ. As you study the Book of Acts and the Letters of Paul, you will come to know the characters personally. Most of all you will feel the challenge to follow Paul's example just as he followed the example of Christ.

There is a \$20 charge for study materials. There are sign up sheets in the narthex and outside the church office. For additional information call Denise Wallace 239-246-6003.

## My Confirmation

When my husband and I moved here 6 years ago from New Hampshire, we started to “church shop”.... But something was missing so we just stopped looking. We were Baptist and could not find the down home church that we were used to. One day, my neighbor Chips Cumm, asked me to attend service with her at St Mary's. When I entered the Church, I immediately felt at home and had to keep coming back again and again.

That was 3 years ago. I decided that I wanted to make St Mary's my home so I spoke with Father Rowe about confirmation. I took the classes and we planned the date.

My life changed for me on Sunday April 15th.



Bishop Garrison met with us prior to the service and we talked and prayed together. He made us feel very comfortable. There were 3 of us and we were all going through different emotions. When Bishop called me to come forward, I begin to feel complete joy and happiness, perhaps a bit euphoric. I knew at that moment I was receiving God's grace, rededicating my life to Christ and

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publicly affirming my faith. The laying on of hands and anointing was such a special moment because I could feel the love of God flowing through me and surrounding all of us. I was grateful that my sponsor Chips, was holding my hand at that time. For me, confirmation was also a time of deepening my relationship with God but it was also a time of forgiveness and cleansing of my heart.

Now that a few days have passed, I have been asked this question....Do I feel differently now that I have been confirmed? The answer is definitely yes. I do feel differently. I want to serve God and my Church and I know that He has a special plan for me. I do not know what that is yet but I will continue to pray and seek the answer.

It's really impossible to describe such a life changing event in just a few paragraphs so if anyone is considering confirmation or just wants to hear what it's like, let me know and I'll be so glad to talk with you and tell you about my personal experience.

God Bless you all and thanks for letting me share.

Mary Koenig



## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE MAY 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 FINAL ROLL CALL

St Mary's Episcopal Church will hold a Veterans Memorial Day Service on Monday the 28th of May at 9:00 am.



All are welcome to this service, which will honor all veterans, and veteran's survivors. The Service format will be Episcopal, and will incorporate military traditions including the "Final Roll Call".



Communion will be offered during the service to all baptized Christians, and a Blessing will be offered to all other attendees. Following the Service, there is a light buffet.

Please contact Bill Gillmore at [billgill39@hotmail.com](mailto:billgill39@hotmail.com) for more information.



# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church



## St. Mary's Day 2018

On August 12<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin, informally known as the Assumption. Since our church is honored with the name of St. Mary, we take the opportunity of this special day both to give thanks for Our Lady's life, witness and intercession. We also give thanks for the wonderful place of worship with which we have been blessed.

### What are we doing?

- Praising God for the Blessed Virgin whose YES to God opened the way for our salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Thanking God for St. Mary's Church, for its worship, music, teaching, fellowship and service.
- Praying to God to keep blessing St. Mary's with spiritual health and effectiveness.
- Celebrating with one another the blessings we have received through St. Mary's.

### What's happening?

- Celebrating St. Mary and St. Mary's at all services.
- Festal Eucharist (solemn with incense) at 10:00 am.
- Parish celebration lunch after the 10:00 am Eucharist.

Please mark this special day on your calendars and invite friends and neighbors to join you.

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## Biblical Dramatization Presented by Charles Baker

I, Paul performed by Charley Baker was a hit. As Saul/Paul of Tarsus, Charley presented an incredible performance at all three services the weekend of April 15<sup>th</sup>.



Charles Baker - Excerpt from "I, Paul"

Charley's mission is to teach about the love of Jesus Christ using his acting talents to portray the lives of great men in Christian history. Biographical data passed down to us by reliable sources inspires us to walk in their footsteps as Christians. His plays build up the body of Christ in love and charity by inspiring the audiences with their courage and selfless devotion to God.

**On Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> at 4PM** Charles Baker will perform his full rendition "The Last Canticle of St. Francis". Please mark your calendars and bring your friends.



The Last Canticle of St. Francis

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## DATES TO REMEMER

May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Beth Moore Bible Study "To Live is Christ" begins PLC 1:00 pm Sundays
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Spaghetti Dinner Benefit Youth Camp Fund 5:30 pm in the PLC
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Weekend Sunday
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Veterans Memorial Day Service
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Independence Day Sunday
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mary's Day
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	St Francis / Pet Blessing
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Charles Baker – play "...St Francis" 4:00 pm