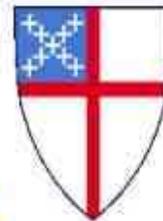




Where Word and Sacrament  
come together  
in Celebration and Service



# Winter 2018

## Message from the Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mary's,

Advent Sunday, the weekend of December 1 & 2, begins the new Christian Year. We invite God's Holy Spirit to stir up within us a renewed anticipation for God's grace in our lives and in the world. We see enough darkness in ourselves and in our world to long for the Light of Christ to shine his transforming light into us and through us.

Advent invites us to consider how we are following Christ and how we might do so more wholeheartedly, more thoroughly. It is a good time to review our *Rule of Life*, our pattern of Christian prayer and practice. It is a good time to look for opportunities to celebrate, to grow and to give. There is an outline elsewhere in this issue.

We celebrate with Bill Gilmore as he is ordained deacon at our Cathedral of St. Peter in St. Petersburg at 11:00 am on Saturday, December 1. A faithful Christian man, Bill sensed God's hand on him to go deeper and he has been exploring, learning and practicing for two years in preparation for this great adventure. As a deacon Bill will be assigned to St. Mary's to assist his priest and parish in worship and in reaching out to the community, especially to those in need.

The parish celebrates the beginning of this preparation season with *Advent Lessons and Carols* at 4:00 pm on Advent Sunday, December 2.

To help with personal preparation, you might want to use the *Forward Day by Day* booklets to guide your scripture reading and meditation. There are other useful resources on the Advent Book Table in the narthex.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Women turn our attention to the coming Feast of the Nativity with the Annual Christmas Tea on Thursday, December 6 at 2:00 pm in the Parish Life Center.

There will be a Quiet Day – a time of reflection and prayer – on Saturday, December 8 from 9:15 to 2:30 pm. This will be led by our new priest associate Fr. Bill Faupel.

These events, along with our regular worship and ministries, help us to prepare to welcome the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ, celebrating God's gift of his Son into our world and into our lives.

May God bless you richly this Advent and Christmas.

Fr. Michael

## RULE OF LIFE

All Christians should from time to time frame for themselves a RULE OF LIFE in accordance with the precepts of the Gospel and the faith and order of the Church; wherein they may consider the following:

The regularity of their attendance at public worship and, especially at the Holy Communion.

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The practice of private prayer, Bible reading, and self-discipline.

Bringing the teaching and example of Christ into everyday life.

The boldness of their spoken witness to their faith in Christ.

Personal service to the Church and the community.

The offering of money according to their means for the support of the work of the Church at home and overseas.

—*BCP 1962 Canada, page 555 (adapted)*

## Meet Fr Bill Faupel



St Mary's is grateful to God for the Blessing of Fr Bill Faupel joining our parish staff in November.

Fr. Bill comes to us from a five year ministry at St Paul's Naples, after spending several years in a dual role of training seminarians for ministry while pastoring several parishes in Kentucky and Maryland. Raised a Pentecostal, Bill took his M.Div. at Asbury Theological Seminary in

Kentucky and his Ph.D. in the History of Christian Thought at the University of Birmingham in England. He also took his Anglican Studies at Queens College while in England. He returned to Asbury in 1978 to become Director of Libraries and Professor of the History of Christianity.

During his stay in Kentucky he served various churches as Associate Rector, Interim Rector or Priest-in-Charge. In 2004 he moved to Washington, DC where he taught Church History and was Director of the Library at Wesley Theological Seminary and served as supply priest in the Diocese of Washington. In 2009 he was “loaned” to the United Methodists and pastored a small parish in Maryland until he moved to Naples. Fr. Bill and his wife, Bonnie, have a son, Michael, and a daughter-in-law, Kimberly, who live in Kentucky.



## Stewardship 2019

The scheduled solicitation period for the 2019 Stewardship Annual Giving Campaign was completed on November 18, 2019. To reach our aggressive Stewardship Campaign goal of \$650,000, the Stewardship Commission will continue to attempt to maximize the return of as many pledge cards as possible as St. Mary's has a significant need to reach this goal.

Over the past several years, we have experienced a significant gap between the amount of income needed to maintain the dynamic programs which

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

support the religious mission of St. Mary's and the total income received. The resulting deficit that has accrued has significantly hampered St. Mary's efforts to effectively continue the Lord's work in our Church and community.

During the Stewardship solicitation period, we have attempted to showcase key programs that are an essential part of St. Mary's mission. However it has been frustrating that we have been unable to directly reach almost 2/3rds of our membership due to the seasonal nature of our community. It is clear to me that making an appeal by mail to increase our pledge income is not as convincing as discussing our financial needs with you in person. So please accept the reality of our financial deficit and absolute need to reach our Stewardship goal of \$650,000 in pledge income.

If you have submitted a pledge, I earnestly thank you on behalf of St. Mary's. If your pledge has not been submitted please mail it, deposit it at the Altar or put it in the collection plate as soon as possible. If you have not made a pledge, I pray that God will stimulate your "Transforming Generosity" reflex to make a substantial contribution to St. Mary's 2019 Stewardship Campaign. Remember, your pledge is to God to continue his important work through St. Mary's. I pray you will put God first.

For the Stewardship Program  
Jim Howard  
Chair



## Order of St. Luke

The Order of St. Luke Prayer Ministry is a group of St. Mary's "prayer warriors" who have met weekly for 14 weeks to study and have committed themselves to daily reading of scripture and prayer. After the study we are inducted, anointed and have our hands blessed. Over a period of twelve years we have grown to nineteen men and women who share this special ministry. We are available at each weekend service to pray with others who come to our prayer stations seeking prayers for themselves or others in their hearts. Your requests are private and not shared with others. We start by asking you "How may we pray for you?".

There will be a new class starting January 9th. If you feel called to study this special lay ministry, contact Cherrill Cregar at 239-887-1939 or [cherrillcregar@gmail.com](mailto:cherrillcregar@gmail.com)

St. John's Episcopal Church in Naples will be hosting a Healing Mission on February 24, 2019 with Judith McNutt. Many of our OSL people will be attending and it will be important to sign up ahead of time for this event.

Cherrill Cregar

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church



## ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:15am – 2:30

ADVENTURE INWARD – Charting Your Spiritual Journey with Fr Bill Faupel

Lunch included.

## NEW

### Healing Prayers with OSL

The first Wednesday of the month at the noon service in the Lady's Chapel.



## Kindness for Kids



"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place..."

The Christmas spirit is abloom at St. Mary's Church as joyful hearts and ready hands prepare gifts for special neighborhood children. A glowing tree was placed in the Narthex as an invitation. On its first weekend, it was covered with tags that tried to paint a simple picture of *Jose* and *Maria* and many, many more. St. Mary's parishioners are quickly responding with eager kindness by taking a tag or two or making a donation, generously sharing their love for God's newborn son. The Christ Tree tags will soon be carried away.... leaving behind warm smiles and many memories for those who helped.

### *KINDNESS FOR KIDS*

*.....it started as an inspirational phrase for a Christmas project for Harvest Time Ministry families, but it became a ribbon of love for all who were joined together during this time of outreach.*

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

“...Whoever welcomes one child in my name welcomes me.” Matthew 28: 1-8

**Thank you to St. Mary's Church Family  
and its Supporters  
Best wishes to all of you.  
From the  
Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and  
St. Mary's Outreach Commission**

Annette Leahy - Judkins  
Barbara Howard

**The Return of the Prodigal Son - A Story of  
Homecoming - Henri J.M. Nouwen**



I recently completed a Pastoral Theology project at seminary which involved reading the book, *The Return of The Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. My project took the class on a journey through the painting and the spiritual teachings behind it. In this book Nouwen reflects upon the life of the painter Rembrandt, his last painting *The Prodigal Son*, and its meaning for the author and all of us on the spiritual journey home to God.

The painting is a unique self-portrait of a man who experienced all of the drama and tragedy of the younger brother, wrestled with the sins of the elder brother, and ultimately found himself in the loving embrace of God.

The sins of the younger “prodigal” son are those we all experience in life. While it may not be the literal debauchery he embarks on, we do leave God in search of temporal rewards that leave us unsatisfied and bankrupt. Nouwen discusses his own journey away from God in search of prestige, knowledge, greed, worldly trophies, and false love.

*“I am the younger son, I am the elder son; and I am on my way to becoming the father... We discover within ourselves the lost child of God and also the compassionate mother and father that is God.”*

The elder brother who does not leave home is resistant to forgiveness and joining the party; he is sinful and no better than his reckless brother. We step into this role when jealous, arrogant, seeking revenge, and engaging in rivalries. The elder brother loses sight that he is equally loved. Will he enter the Father’s joy?

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Nouwen turns to the father of the sons in the final chapters of the book. Rembrandt paints the father as a half-blind man, who's love is blind and enveloping. The right hand is masculine and the left hand feminine, reflecting the two natures of God. Rembrandt lost everything in his lifetime, dying poor and destitute. Four of his five children died early and he lost the love of his life in his mid-thirties. Throughout all of this pain he never becomes disillusioned. He discovers that light comes from an inner fire that never dies, the fire of love and he is able to exhibit that in the flesh of his subjects. Look at the light flowing from the father into the son and the light that links the elder son to his loving father's face.

The father loves all his children, however each one of us needs to begin walking home. This painting captured my imagination and faith in 2011 when I came across it in a small church in Connecticut. I did not know the whole story behind the painting, but I felt it was somehow my story. Nouwen came across a print of this when living in France. The painting grabbed hold of Nouwen and he made a pilgrimage to the Hermitage in Russia to spend hours meditating on this beautiful depiction of the universal Christian journey. I encourage you to pick up a copy and join the party!

*"As I look at my own aging hands, I know that they have been given to me to stretch out toward all who suffer, to rest upon the shoulders of all who come, and to offer the blessing that emerges from the immensity of God's love."*

Brian Cleary

## St. Mary's Music Ministry

*David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals. -- 2 Sam 6:5*

St Mary's Music Ministry is in high gear this season, praising the Lord with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with flute and harp, with preparation for Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Pageant, and with the thrilling return of our Concert Series. Mark your calendars!

- ❖ Oct 7, Charles Baker offered a deeply moving glimpse into the life of a most beloved saint, in John DeMers' one man play *The Last Canticle of St Francis*.
- ❖ Nov 16, 2018 we welcomed back the dazzling ChoRuss Vocal Quartet
- ❖ 4pm Sun Dec 2, 2018 St Mary's Choir offers beautiful Advent Lessons & Carols
- ❖ 7pm Sun Feb 17, 2019 the Ave Maria University Scholae will lift our souls in song
- ❖ 7:30pm Fri Apr 12, 2019 the famed Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida will carry us to higher realm with voices and orchestra

In addition to the excitement of the season, our Music Ministers continue to bring beauty, encouragement, and edification to our worship week by week, with songs that light our spirit's way. Becky Rife, Walter Griffeth, and Adell Cotter keep the melodies flowing as choir burgeons week by week with northern members' joyous returns. Veteran usher, lector, and

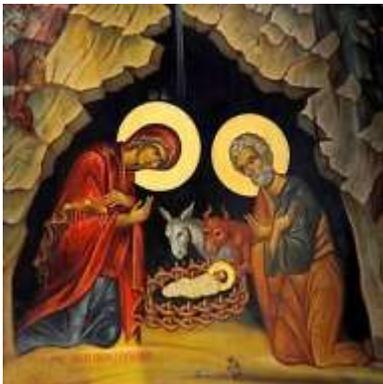
# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

volunteer extraordinaire Pam Stamper has joined the music ministry keyboard crew, providing patriotic accompaniment to the parish Veterans' Day celebration cantored by our multi-talented Callie Gilmore. And God has provided a marvelous accompanist for Renee Osborne, Jane Battina and Sandy Renner's exciting 2019 parish fundraiser Love on Broadway (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>). Straight from Midland Texas, we warmly welcome Barbara Wischmeiert to our musical family.

We thank God and our generous members for the prayer and support which allow us to praise God with all our strength! *Alleluia! Bless the Lord!*

Kathleen Pignato

## Christmas Pageant



Rejoice and be Glad! St Mary's 2018 INTERGENERATIONAL Christmas Pageant has a place in the Kingdom for YOU! Please mark your calendars for a very special event in our worship.

At 5pm on Dec 24th, a cast of 25 characters, and crew of a dozen, will join in presenting the most

beloved story in our scriptures: the Birth of Christ Jesus our Saviour!

"All Creation Rejoices" is an original script viewing the scene through the eyes of many who were present, including the Ox and Donkey.

Contact Kathleen and Courtney if you are available and interested, and if so, if any of the below parts appeal especially to you (the first ten characters listed complete their parts one by one in the first 5 minutes of the play, and get to sit down to enjoy the rest!).

Beach	Mary
Palm Tree	Joseph
Whale	Angel Fuego
River	Holy Spirit
Cloud	Donkey
Bird	Inn Keeper
Jelly fish	Angel Mouton
Manatee	Ox
Man	Ass

Cow	Singing Animals
-----	-----------------

Narrator	3 Shepherds
Angel Gabriel	Little Sheep/Big Angels

Only lead characters (Joseph, Mary, Inn Keeper, Gabriel, Holy Spirit, Cow), most of whom will be youth, will have a required rehearsal schedule.

Bless you as we approach the demanding and beautiful season ahead.

Kathleen Pignato  
[music@stmarysbonita.org](mailto:music@stmarysbonita.org)  
Courtney Crosby  
[youthcoordinator@stmarysbonita.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@stmarysbonita.org)

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

## ECW UPDATES



**St. Mary's ECW Christmas Tea  
Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 2 - 4 pm  
It's almost Tea Time! Have you signed up?**



RSVP by Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> to attend.  
Signup sheet is in the Narthex.

### **Volunteer Opportunities We Need lots of Delectable to Adorn the Tea Table**

We'll supply you with a recipe or bake your own favorites! Remember, Tea Table treats should be bite-sized. To help with planning, please indicate on signup sheet your name, contact information, what you will be contributing and quantity.  
**Happy baking and many thanks for your help!**

Baked items are to be delivered Tuesday, December 4, 9am – 5pm and Wednesday, December 5, by 10am. Please leave in the kitchen marked "Christmas Tea".

## Decorate the Tree

Join us Friday, November 30, 10am, to help decorate the tree in the PLC. Many hands are needed for tying bows, wrapping presents and hanging ornaments. Much fun and fellowship will be involved!

Thank you for joining us for this annual holiday fellowship! There is no charge for guests for the Tea. Donations will be accepted. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's ECW, indicating in the memo line "Christmas Tea".

To volunteer or for more information, contact Jane Battina, [janelizabeth2@hotmail.com](mailto:janelizabeth2@hotmail.com), 239-405-0494 or Renee Osborne, [renee@midwestsinglesource.com](mailto:renee@midwestsinglesource.com), 316-655-0335.



## OPEN AUDITIONS

Do you sing in the shower? Belt out a show tune while driving in your car? Find yourself tap dancing in front of the copy machine?

Then you just might be the person we are looking for to join a fun group of St. Mary's choir members and friends! *Love on Broadway*, this year's church fund-raiser, will transport our guests to a lively cabaret featuring show-stopper songs about the highs and lows of love and romance. Perfect for the Saturday before Valentine's Day!

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

We are looking for men and women who like to sing.

We have a place for everyone who would like to participate! Open auditions will be held in the church on the following days and times:

Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am, Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am and Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM.

Bring a tune to sing or we will provide something for you! Select the date that works best for your schedule. Rehearsals will be held in January and early February. Questions: Email Sandy Renner, at [sandra.martin.renner@comcast.net](mailto:sandra.martin.renner@comcast.net).

We hope you will either join us on stage or be in the audience to cheer us on! Signup sheet located in Narthex.

## Calendar of Events

**December 1, 2018 – March 9, 2019**

December 1	Diocesan Ordination of Deacons
December 2	4:00pm Advent Lessons and Carols
December 6	ECW Tea
December 8	Advent Quiet Day
December 22/23	Deacon Bill Gilmore Preaching

December 29/30

Seminarian Brian Cleary Preaching

January 15

Confirmation Class Begins

January 27

St. Mary's Annual Meeting

February 2/3

Candlemas: Winter Feast of Title

February 9

*Love on Broadway* Fundraiser

February 16/17

Ministry Fair

February 23

Healing Conference St. John's Episcopal Church, Naples

March 3

Ash Wednesday

March 8/9

St. Mary's Men's Retreat - Dayspring

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church



**Honoring our Veterans**



**A Lovely Evening Listening to ChoRuss**



**Kindness for Kids**