



St. Mary's Episcopal  
Church

TIDINGS

Where Word and Sacrament  
come together  
in Celebration and Service



SUMMER 2019

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Dear members and friends of St. Mary's,

When Christ arose from the dead his first followers, in astonished amazement, wondered, "What happens now?" Jesus himself spent the forty days between his resurrection and ascension forming them into a community, a body that would be the answer to that question.

The Church, the Body of Christ, is what happens now.

First of all, by appearing to them and visiting with them many times, he made sure that they are utterly and totally convinced that he was truly risen from the dead. No one would believe such a thing without overwhelming evidence and he made sure that their faith would be strong enough to grasp every opportunity and endure all opposition.

Secondly, he opened their minds and hearts to grasp the deep meaning of their scriptures, showing them how this revelation of God and his purposes points to him and is completely fulfilled in him. Ever since then they and we have seen Jesus Christ revealed on every page of what we call the Old Testament.

Thirdly, he gave them their mission: to be his witnesses to everyone from their local neighborhood to the whole world, inviting everyone everywhere to hear the challenge to turn away from wrong living of every kind, to turn to Christ to receive new life through the Holy Spirit, and to become part of the Church, the Body of Christ, part of the answer to "What happens now?"

Last of all, he told them to wait and pray until God himself gave the signal by pouring on them the Holy Spirit – the Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Guide – who makes the mind of Christ known to his people and who is the power that fires up their lives.

When that Holy Spirit came, their mission was launched and continues to transform the world today.

We are part of this great adventure and we might want to ask ourselves the kinds of questions the first disciples grappled with.

- What is my confidence in the Jesus Christ and his resurrection and how does it need to deepen?

# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

- How passionate am I about Christ's mission to transform the world and what is my part in it?
- How do I wait and pray for God's direction?
- How does the Holy Spirit empower my life?
- What is different in my life because Christ is risen, because Christ has ascended to the right hand of the Father, because he has sent his Holy Spirit?

St. Mary's, our parish church, exists to help us grow into these questions and become wholehearted parts of "What happens now?"

During these few weeks leading up to the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, June 9 would you joyfully pray these questions? You may use the [Novena to the Holy Ghost](#) available at the church or here on our website but any form of prayer is fine.

And may God bless you with power from on high.

Yours faithfully,

Fr. Michael

PS It is customary to wear (something) red to church on the Feast of Pentecost.

**THE FEAST OF PENTECOST (Sunday, June 9)** is one of the three great celebrations of the church year, along with Christmas and Easter. It celebrates the pouring out of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised, creating the Church. Let us pray that we may "daily increase in the Holy Spirit more and more." To mark the importance of this day, we use incense during the Eucharist. The Paschal Candle, which burns throughout the Easter Season, will be extinguished at the end of services today. Throughout the rest of the year, the Paschal Candle is used at baptisms and funerals as a sign of Christ's resurrection and our new life in him.

## Message from the Senior Warden

The first few months of being Senior Warden have flown by. It has been a great experience. The vestry I inherited is positive and active. We have a great church here at St. Mary's Bonita with potential to do greater things for our people, our community and our future.

One of the first projects happening this year is to strengthen and expand the operation of our Thrift Shop, Penny Wise. Penny Wise is working on a temporary addition which will allow expanded sales to include furniture. They recently added the capability to accept credit cards which has increased sales. They face a continuing challenge to get the volunteers needed to increase the size of the operation.

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We may soon become the home of one of the after-school programs run by New Horizons. Children from kindergarten to fifth grade may soon be spending two hours, four days a week after school for tutoring and education. Volunteers will be needed to make this operative.

Volunteers are an essential part of what we do at St. Mary's. I believe we are the most participative congregation I have ever been associated with. We always need more involvement, and we can expand our outreach and church missions. I have committed myself to see and express appreciation to our volunteers, some of whom labor away faithfully but are not normally seen. I encourage all to express appreciation to these faithful parishioners. Volunteering "pays" well, and makes one's life worthwhile.

Good stewardship makes our church go. Time, talent and treasure, donated with love for the good we can do. Stewardship is defined as taking care of what God has given us. According to the parable of the talents, found in the Gospel of Matthew, He expects what he has left in our charge will grow. The unfaithful servant only gave back what he had been given and earned the master's wrath. Let's make our gifts grow!

Paul Judkins

## **Greetings From Brian Cleary**

Easter greetings and peace to everyone from The Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Christianity is successful because of the many close-knit faith communities that exist in every

city or village around the world. Being away from St. Mary's has given me a new perspective on Paul's epistles. The longing for his friends and fellow believers was evident in those letters and I now understand his feelings of loss that inevitably come when being apart.

I was blessed to attend a beautiful Easter Vigil service at St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco. It was dramatic and inventive, however what makes Jesus' resurrection so special is sharing the memorial with people you love and cherish. The community of love was the essential ingredient missing this year, my family at St. Mary's. Cherish and love one another, as Christ loved us.

As I write this letter, I am in the final three weeks of my first year of seminary training. It has been an exciting year of spiritual development, challenging coursework, and living in community. This semester I have taken modern church history, Old and New Testament exegesis, biblical languages, and guitar. The San Francisco Bay area is a beautiful place to live and the inspiration of nature and culture is around every corner. The spirit of Jesus is everywhere in the area. People might not call themselves Christian, but the law is written on their hearts.

This summer I will be working with the San Francisco Night Ministry in order to fulfill my Clinical Pastoral Education requirements. This ministry serves the homeless where they are, on the streets 11pm to 3am seven nights a week. It is known to be a powerful experience and involves difficult work with people on the edges of society.

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I am happy to announce that I will be completing my field education next year at St. Clements in Berkeley, CA.



As I look ahead to Pentecost and my visit in June, I am confident Jesus is ALIVE. Let us proclaim the Good News!

I hold you all in my heart and prayers. Thank you for your support this year and in the future.  
Peace and Love,

Brian +

*“Life is a succession of crises and moments  
when we have to rediscover*

*who we are and what we really want.” Jean  
Vanier (1928-2019)*

Jean Vanier's passing takes some profound love and humility from this world, but I am

comforted to know that he lived the life he really wanted. He helped many discover their authentic life in Christ by founding communities for people with disabilities. L'Arche renewed the spirit of Fr. Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic writer, whom I heard speak at a church in Cambridge in the early 80s. Fr. Nouwen was at Harvard Divinity School before he traveled to L'Arche in France to enter into discernment. At L'Arche, he felt he had arrived home. The same year Fr. Nouwen left for France, I traveled to India to volunteer at Opportunity Schools for children with Down's Syndrome. On the other side of the world, I experienced a community that focused on abilities and an empowering love in Christian community. I felt called again into service.

The path forward wasn't obvious. On the other side of "a succession of crises and moments," I rediscovered who I was at St. Mary's. When the Diocese and Fr. Michael invited parishioners to enter into discernment two years ago, I accepted. Fr. Steve Zimmerman, the Commission on Ministries liaison, and a committee of St. Mary's parishioners guided me forward. The path led to postulancy for ordination to the priesthood. I enrolled in an online master program at Nashotah House, and applied to seminaries. In early June,

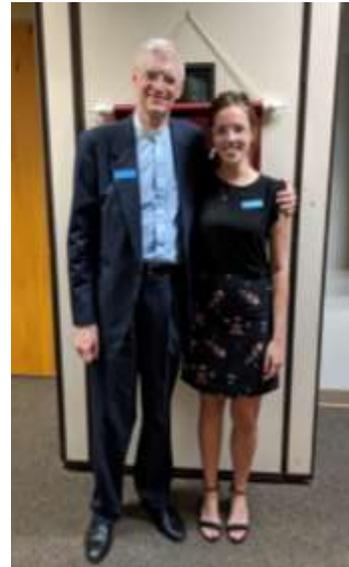
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I'll put my belongings in storage, and then in September will move into a dorm room at

General Seminary in New York to finish a Masters of Divinity degree. I am filled with profound gratitude and a sense of wonder. So few get another chance to pursue their calling. Please keep me in your prayers and know you'll be in mine.

Anne Hartley

## **Farewell to Courtney**



Courtney Crosby, our Parish Youth and Families minister is completing a beautiful service to St. Mary's this May and moving to Sarasota. She will be greatly missed and held close in prayer.

We will have a chance to thank Courtney and send her on her way with our prayers and blessings at the 10:00 am Parish Eucharist on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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## ST. MARY'S CHURCH AND A NEW HORIZON

New Horizons, based in Bonita Springs, is a not-for-profit organization which is focused on at-risk children and teens growing up in poverty, academic failure and hopelessness. Over 20 years of dedication to this mission has resulted now in over 600 students at more than 10 locations in Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero and Ft Myers who are all getting special after-school tutoring and mentoring, as well as help with developing core values. There is no charge to the families.

Over the past ten years, our Church has supported the work of New Horizons, an important community partner, through outreach grants of more than \$14,000 and parishioner volunteer hours. In turn, each year New Horizon arranges for a large group of their students to join our worship with songs, grateful words and happy smiles. And they get a pizza party to thank them for their visit!

New Horizons has approached St Mary's with a proposal to use the PLC (Main Room and Conference Room 1) as a site for children K-5 from local schools, Monday – Thursday for 2 hours daily during the school year, starting in

August. They will provide equipment, supplies and experienced staff. However, they will need volunteers who are willing to help children with their homework.

The Vestry was presented with this proposal at its April meeting and enthusiastically endorsed the idea. Fr. Rowe and some members of the Outreach, Facilities and Christian Formation Commissions will be meeting in May with New Horizons to further discuss the details of this partnership.

Food for thought...

It happens that this program occurs mostly during the time of year when St. Mary's parish is welcoming many of its returning "northern lights." Combining the collective time and talent of our members with the treasure of our facility just might help to create a special bond with young families by helping them with their children's educational progress.

We often mention how fortunate we are as a parish. Perhaps this is a "God moment" for St. Mary's and its generous church family and friends.

For questions about this article, leave a message at church office for Barbara Howard at (239) 992-4343.

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pennywise Open House  
Huge Success**

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During the weekend of March 23-24, volunteers at Pennywise/St. Mary's Thrift Store conducted three Open Houses, following each Eucharist at 5:00 pm (Saturday), 8:00 am (Sunday) and 10:00 am (Sunday). It was a special weekend for Pennywise as Father Michael at each Eucharist recognized all volunteers with a Blessing. Approximately 150 parishioners and guests attended the Open Houses. All enjoyed refreshments of strawberries and cream.

The décor of the store was festive for the event with clothing and furniture displays and balloons. Pennywise generated sales of \$750 during the 3 Open Houses. It was a fun event for a worthwhile outreach mission of St. Mary's. We hope to repeat this successful event in Fall 2019 as we continue our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1989-2019) Celebration. Thanks to everyone who supported this effort!



**NOTE:** Pennywise Volunteers Needed: We continue to seek volunteers to work during the summer. Our hours are Monday thru Saturday, 10 AM-2 PM. Please contact Neil Fredericksen at 727-641-1187 or Billie Barnes at 804-435-0435 if

you can work one shift per week or are willing to substitute once or twice a month. Training will be provided.

Barbara Wallace

## 20/20 Vision?

For many the healing ministry is an uncomfortable topic, further strengthened by that passage in Mark about handling the serpents (Mark 16:17). Most of us are just not ready to slither along that path. But, from first-hand experience, I can say the more I've read and studied Christ's healing miracles (there are 26 separate accounts), the more I've grown in my Christian life, and the more centered and balanced I've felt. I still don't like snakes, but I've found and learned so much more.

St. Mary's Order of St. Luke Ecclesia Chapter — in an effort to provide our congregation and the general public with transformational information and experiences around the healing ministry — will host a one-day seminar featuring Father Nigel Mumford. The one-day conference will be held Saturday, March 7th. Fr Mumford also will preach at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday, March 8 service. So, be sure to “save those dates,” as Fr Mumford's presentation will be part of our Lenten Learning and Healing Day for 2020. Fr Mumford's presentation is a joint endeavor between OSL, Christian Formation, and Pastoral Care.

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In preparation for the 2020 event, in March of this year, I traveled along with Cherrill Cregar and Jill Smith to Virginia Beach to attend Father Mumford's "Awake My Soul" conference — held at a hotel conference center across the street from Father Mumford's home church, appropriately named Galilee Episcopal Church. Admittedly, I went on this trip with the idea of studying the mechanics of the conference; not really thinking about what might happen inside me at the gathering.

So many of us know first-hand that our Lord and Savior works in grand and glorious ways, so why was I so amazed and surprised by what I brought back from the experience? There was such a personal satisfaction, a spiritual bliss. As we so often find in whatever our calling may be, we receive so much more than we give.

No matter how informed we may be on a topic, there is always something to be learned from others. So often we think our "calling" or spiritual gift is one thing, only to be blindsided to discover it is something else entirely.

One of the foremost themes found in the healing miracle accounts is how Jesus brings the sick / oppressed / tortured person from the throes of isolation and despair to a fullness and newness of life, in COMMUNITY with others. These recipients of Jesus' grace in turn went forth and spread the good news of his healing powers.

Plan now to share in our St Mary's presentation by Fr Nigel Mumford on March 7 and 8. In 2020 may your vision be more clearly defined by His love and grace.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> Michiko Fox was inducted into OSL and becomes our newest member.



**Deb Haslouer**



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

**Executive Board** - The ECW Executive Board members meet on a monthly basis from September through May. We work to support St. Mary's Episcopal Church Women through

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planning programs, events and fundraisers that will be spiritual, informational, philanthropic and fun.

## **Fundraising - Stay at Home Tea**

Many thanks to all ladies who helped with the advanced preparations in April! A special thank you to Doris Bialowis, Diane Daniele, Pamela Houze and Yvonne Graff for their coordination and organization!

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

**Reaching Out** - ECW has collected \$1,636.50 in UTO donations to date this campaign. We greatly appreciate the generosity of all who counted their blessings and made donations accordingly!

**Programs** - Our June 13<sup>th</sup> "Go-Gathering" will be the completion of Stay at Home Tea Fundraiser. Our July 11<sup>th</sup> "Go-Gathering" is planned to be a visit to "Paint with a Twist". More information on that to follow.

**Lunch Bunch** - The next Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at *Bravo! Cucina Italiano* at The Mercato in North Naples at Noon. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. It's important for all to sign up for planning purposes.

All ladies are invited to join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month for the monthly "Go-Gathering"

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!*

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE  
MAY 27, 2019  
FINAL ROLL CALL**



## **TIDINGS** of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will hold a Veterans Memorial Day Service on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 traditional military traditions including the "Final Roll Call".

### **St. Mary's Day 2019**

On August 15<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 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?**

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- Praising God for the Blessed Virgin who's 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.

## From the Choir

**Did you hear the Cymbal crash during our psalm on Divine Mercy Sunday?! Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.**

**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Hallelujah! – Psalm 150:5-6**

Choir Alto Section leader **Emily Edwards** is a woman of many skills and talents. Emily will be graduating FGCU this year with a degree in Health Sciences.



Our Newest Choir Member!



Ralph Quarles joined our choir this month praising God with his excellent sight singing skills, and strong bass voice. Ralph joins Pat McKenzie, Shirley Woolaway, Kit Meade, and Taylor Hill as rookie MVPs, as Choir completes another year of supporting our Worship in Song. Ralph will be sporting Fr David Oliver's new robe, until Almy vestments sends us another, and Fr Oliver returns again to us from the North.

**Pam Stamper** and our dear **Lydia** keep Music Ministry fresh with many enhancements!

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Music Ministry loves the seasons of the liturgical year since last Tidings: Lent and Easter.

Our faithful parishioner **Richard Norris** is helping supplement our Bellas Bell Ringers with a new parish Change Ringing ensemble, which debuted at Easter Vigil.

Our new choir robes and cottas, a gift from ECW, were debuted on Easter Sunday and blessed on Divine Mercy Sunday

Walter not only makes our worship more beautiful with his musical gifts, but has, with Emily, been on loan to help with keeping our floral gardens singing, our concert series furnished, and our parish office manned while staff take vacations.

God bless our young couple!



## DATES TO REMEMBER

May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Weekend Sunday
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Veterans Memorial Day Service
June 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Preaching June 9	Brian Cleary
June 16 June 26	Feast of Pentecost (please wear red) Trinity Sunda
July 4	Meet John the Baptist St. Mary's at Bonita Springs Fourth of July Parade
August	New Horizons starts at St. Mary's
August 18 <sup>th</sup> September 3	St. Mary's Sunday Deanery Convocation at St. Mary's
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Blessing of the Animals

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR - November 15, 2019**

## **DINNER INVITATION DINING AROUND THE WORLD**

sponsors: Order of St. Luke, Pastoral Care, Christian Formation

Benefit: St. Mary's Healing Conference - March 7, 2020

led by Fr. Nigel Mumford



cocktails begin at 5 PM in the Flora Linda Garden

appetizers & desert buffet style -

sample food from multiple nations

Sit and eat at one country's table: Alsace-Lorraine,

Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece,

Ireland, Italy, Japan, Spain, United States

Tickets \$25 - Silent Auction

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

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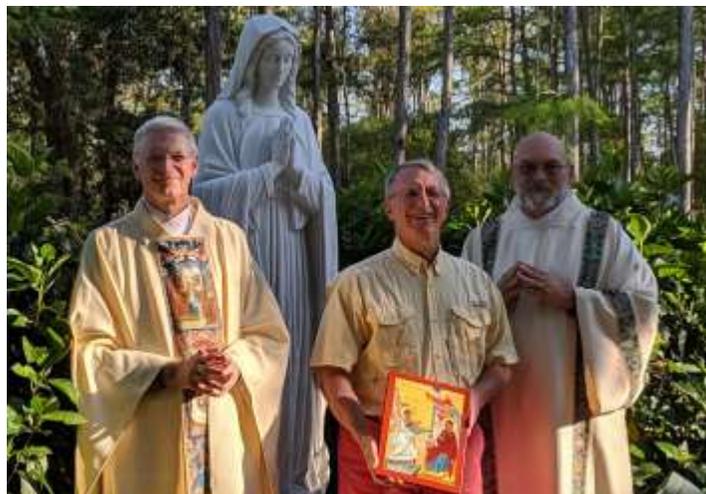


# TIDINGS of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

## PICTURES OF PARISH LIFE



Jim and Diane Creating Icons



The Finished Icon



Joyce and Barbara Knitting Prayer Shawls



Deacon Bill and Father at COMMA



