



The Herald



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Where from Here?

Annual Parish Meeting - December 9, 2007

This is our last Annual Meeting together—our twenty-seventh—but this is not an occasion for saying any goodbyes. We will have more appropriate occasions for doing that at a later time. However, this is a fitting time to talk about the future, the future for both of us that lies beyond my tenure as rector of St. Mary's.

Many of you have been asking questions about that future: When are you leaving? Who will provide clerical leadership after you retire? What will happen to Chantal? Will there be an interim? When will a calling committee be formed to find a new rector?

Let me address some of those questions this morning; but first, let me set your minds at ease by assuring you that St. Mary's has a bright and promising future, just as it has had a distinguished and productive past.

As with all churches, St. Mary's isn't a perfect parish. But—in my opinion—it gets pretty close. St. Mary's is a solid, stable, admired and healthy congregation. It has an enviable reputation. St. Mary's has no irresolvable problems, no debilitating conflicts, no warring factions or divisive issues that distract it from its mission to worship God, love our neighbors and spread the Word.

This congregation is mature. It has a history to be proud of. It is not easily distracted or readily disrupted by fads or the latest controversy. It handles its differences well and addresses its problems in a forthright, reasonable, solution-seeking manner.

While we have concerns and worries—we always seem to be fretting over finances and wondering how we are going to produce a balanced budget—our concerns pale in comparison to our blessings. Look around the ecclesiastical landscape and you will quickly notice that our glass is way more full than empty.

You have a fine staff, dignified worship, excellent music, effective outreach into the community, quality programs, committed lay leaders, people who care and support one another, reserves, growing endowments, and now a building program that will enable you to move to another level of effectiveness in being disciples who make a difference to each other, to this community, and to the future members who will join you in this grand enterprise known as St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

All of that is by way of convincing you that you will have no problem acquiring a fine new rector, quite the contrary. In fact, your greater problem will be selecting from among the eligible candidates, of which there will be many.

Continued....

St. Mary's is dependent upon pledges to meet our month-to-month financial obligations. If you are not up to date on your pledge, please make every effort to become current.

If you have questions about your pledge, please call Rosemary Inman at 886-4756 ext. 23

The Herald
January 2008 Edition

Special points of interest:

- Adult Christian Education (Spring)
- Youth Calendar
- Stephen Ministry
- Next Herald Deadline: January 18
- St. Mary's Website:
www.stmarysepisc.org

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Where from Here?

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St. Mary's is at an historic juncture in its evolution from that day in 1882 when 15 people met in the home of Josiah Remfry to form St. James' Mission, that would later become St. Mary's Church. I am honored to have been part of that unfurling history, and there will be many others who will be enthusiastically drawn to the challenge of being part of what comes next.

We have traveled a long way together, you and I. But you are about to go further still, and you deserve strong, faithful, entrepreneurial leadership to accompany you there. So be confident. Be patient. Be deliberate. Be thorough. By all means be selective. And trust in God to lead you and guide you in your efforts.

As for the immediate future: My last Sunday with you will be March 30, the Sunday after Easter. My first and official day of retirement will be April 1 ... April Fools' Day.

Kathy and I will be moving to Lynchburg, Virginia, where my elderly parents reside, where I have friends and fishing buddies, where I know the area well, where the bishop of the diocese is an old friend and colleague, where much water is nearby, and where I will be far enough away that my presence will not distract from or interfere with your new rector getting fully established as your priest, pastor, and spiritual leader.

I am actually not looking upon this move as a retirement, but more as a life-transition and an opportunity to apply myself to that which seems incomplete or unfulfilled and yet still calls for attention from deep within my soul.

I may teach again. I do plan to fish, and travel, and see our grandson and spend more time with Kathy from whom the demands of parish ministry took time and energy from me that were rightfully hers.

I also hope to do more writing, much more than I was able to do while performing my duties as a parish priest. I hope that writing will become my new vocation and my new identity. I have no idea if I will be successful; but I do know that I would be terribly disappointed if I didn't at least try. And if ever there were a time to get started in earnest, this is it.

After I leave, Chantal will be the priest in charge until an interim rector is called, which could take some months since the diocesan office has indicated that a committee to call an interim rector cannot be formed until after my departure. Even when an interim rector is called, Chantal will remain as the assistant until such time as she is called to a parish of her own. She is eager to be the rector of her own parish, and she should be. She is prepared and she is ready.

During the interim phase, the diocesan office will assist you in developing a parish profile and a job description for your new rector. A rector calling committee that will report to the vestry will also be formed during that time. They will likely do a national search; names will be received; resumes will be reviewed; phone calls and letters will be exchanged; interviews will take place, both afar and on site; background checks will be conducted; and eventually a suitable person to be your next rector will be recommended to the vestry by the calling committee.

The process involves a lot of work and takes a considerable amount of time. My advice to you is: Don't hurry. Don't rush. Don't get impatient. Take however long it needs to take. Consider the best possible candidates. St. Mary's deserves—and at this time in its history it needs—a top-quality priest who can lead it into the promising future that lies before you.

Meanwhile, you all must remember that this transition period will be no time for slacking off or putting off “until a new rector comes.” The interim period will be a time when you must show up and step up; when you must take on some of the jobs and tasks that are necessary to keep this place humming.

And continue to challenge yourselves to be good stewards, which isn't a matter of the church needing your time **or** your treasure. The church is like your own home: it needs **both** in order to be sound.

There is excitement, uncertainty, and possibilities and challenges that await us ... both of us. We have shared a past, and for that reason alone we will be part of each others future. God is calling each of us to the next phase of our lives. But for the next three-and-a-half months we have a lot of work to do. So, lets get on with it; and we'll say goodbye another day.

~Glenn Busch

Spring Offerings in Adult Christian Education

St. Mary's is pleased to offer five classes for adults this spring. Classes are Sundays 10:00- 10:45 a.m. Classrooms are subject to change depending on class sizes. Please note the dates listed in the descriptions.

The Bible and Theology: A Kerygma Bible Study January 6 – May 25

Facilitators: David Idol and Craig Popalis **Location:** Common Room

This semester the group will continue their exploration of two facets of our faith: Soteriology (how we are saved), and Authority. Join this thought-provoking and free-thinking group of parishioners as they delve into matters of our deep faith.

Lectionary Class Jan. 6-Feb. 3, March 9 & 11, and April

Facilitator: Ed Crissman **Location:** Room 115 Ed. Building

This class is a Bible study and discussion group of the lessons for each Sunday. Usually we focus on the Gospel lesson, since most of our sermons are based on the Gospel. Each Sunday you will receive a copy of *Synthesis*, a lectionary guide, which gives background and additional information about the events going on in the lessons. A discussion then takes place inspired by the lessons with application to our daily lives. (Note that this class will be offered every Sunday that Ed is not teaching another class.)

Mission Possible: Finding the Sacred in the Ordinary February 3-March 9 (Lenten Offering)

Facilitator: Duana Cisney **Location:** To Be Determined

During the Lenten season, we will explore ways of finding the sacred in the ordinary events of day-to-day life. We will learn ways of 'plugging in' to what keeps us 'tuned out'. This class is geared towards parents with children and youth of all ages, but all are welcome.

Death of the Messiah: A Lenten Offering February 10- March 2

Facilitator: Ed Crissman **Location:** Room 115 Ed. Building

Join us for a scholarly study of the four Passion Narratives in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. Material will be based on the book *The Death of the Messiah* by Raymond E. Brown, as well as Brown's booklet *A Crucified Christ in Holy Week*. The class will study one evangelist per week, discussing their view of the Passion and what each writer's intent is.

Understanding Islam May 4- May 25

Facilitator: Ed Crissman **Location:** Room 115 Ed. Building

Join us as we embark on a study of Islam, based on the books *Understanding Islam* by Thomas Lippman and the English translation of *The Koran* by N.J. Dawood. This class will explore the basic beliefs and practices of Islam, the prophet Muhammed, the Islamic Society, and current issues in Islam today.

For questions about programs for adults, contact Chantal McKinney at 886-4756 ext. 24.

For information about programs for children and teens, contact Duana Cisney at 886-4756 ext. 26 or duanac@stmarysepisc.org.

Youth Calendar

Jan. 6- Feast of Lights and Potluck- A parish wide event: Welcome in Epiphany with a beautiful candle light service followed by potluck. More info. to come.

Jan. 13- E.Y.C. Planning Session and Covered Dish Supper. Help us to plan a great spring year! More details to come.

Important Dates

December 31st - Office is closed at noon.

January 1st - Office closed.

January 18th & 19th - Diocesan Convention at Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

St. Mary's Delegates: Jim Armstrong, Tony Bertschi, Kim Gay and Jay Marsh and our three clergy; Glenn Busch, Chantal McKinney, and Evelyn Morales.

Save the Date: March 7th (in the evening) & March 30th - More details to come!

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry, a confidential, pastoral care Lay Ministry, invites all who are interested to sign up for our 2008, winter classes beginning the first week in February. The classes will be taught by our very qualified Stephen Leaders who have in addition to their own college degrees, graduate school, etc., added over 106 hours in special training, exclusively for Stephen Ministry Leadership.

Please call Maria Graver our Parish Administrative Assistant at 886-4756 or Llewjean White at 882-3175 in order to be part of this next class.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our new Vestry members for 2008. They are: Marita Gates, Amo Kearns, Beth Penley and Craig Popalis.

It's an Open Secret!

We wanted to surprise Kathy and Glenn with a scrapbook consisting of twenty-seven years of St. Mary's memories. However, to complete this endeavor correctly and keep it a secret has become impossible. Please send all letters, memories and pictures to Frann White, 1245 Watermark Court, High Point, NC 27265 as soon as possible. A personal note from you will be something they will cherish.

Planned Giving

Planning ahead is part of effective stewardship. Plan your will now—and include a bequest to your church. For more information on the "St. Mary's Order of the Oak" campaign please call or email Bill Fenn, Jr., Committee Chair for more details – 883-0392 or billfenn00@hotmail.com.



The Environmental
Stewardship Committee
will begin meeting the fourth Sunday of
each month at
10:00 a.m. in the parish hall
beginning in January.
All welcome.

St. Mary's Music Academy

Would you like to sponsor a child to attend the Academy who could not afford music lessons? There is a real need for sponsorships at the present time. A month of lessons could be given for \$100. You may give one or several months tuition. Just make your check out to St. Mary's Music Academy and give to Margaret McDonald. Your generosity can make a lasting difference in a child's life.

Reminders from the Financial Secretary

To receive credit for contributions in 2007, please have them in the office **before noon on December 31st**. And please turn in receipts for reimbursement of 2007 expenses by Thursday December 20th.

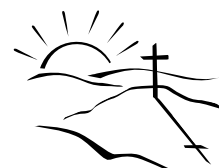
Milestones

Deaths

Carlton Brown, sister of Punny Wasmer, died in November.

Karen Smith, sister of Bryan Smith, died on December 10th.

*May the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*



Births

William Hayes Fetner, grandson of Iris and Jeff Stone, was born on November 17th, in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

James Bowen Foster, son of Sarah and John Foster III, was born on December 13th at High Point Regional Hospital.

Birthdays

1/1: Joseph Hayworth, Stacy Hoots

1/2: Kimberly Chaney, Lindsey Finch, Judy Straight

1/3: Tim Yates

1/4: Stephen Uhlin

1/5: Cese Biesecker, Ann Crowell

1/6: Samantha Cisney, Alexandra Cisney, Candice Greig

1/7: Kerie Beth Scott

1/8: Sarah Grieser, Jim Snow

1/9: Louis Freeman, Paul Zander

1/10: Peter Biesecker, Robert Hoots, Frann White

1/11: Alan Chaney, Jessica Henderson

1/12: Lorna Brown, Stephen Farshing, Bryson McKinney

1/13: Jeff Swing

1/14: Evelyn Cottam

1/15: KC Grieser

1/17: Joan Betsill

1/18: Barbara Farshing, Adair Smith

1/19: Tope Akinade, Paul Miller

1/21: Kitty Congdon, Laura Johnson, Margaret McDonald

1/22: Barbara Crowell, Mary Lliza Duckett, Charles Lynch, Jr., Madeline Rhoton

1/23: Louise Foster

1/24: William Moore

1/25: David Farshing

1/27: Jeff Brown, Sam Duckett, Avery Higgins, Suzanne Lea, Lauren McHenry

1/28: Rene Bardua

1/29: Marita Gates

Please help us keep our information up to date! If your birthday isn't mentioned here, or is incorrect, please call the church office at 886-4756 ext. 21 or e-mail Maria at administrator@stmarysepisc.org. *Thank you!*

Join us as we pray for...

Margaret Burbage
 Dot Forward
 Memory Chromik
 Jim Snow
 John Allard
 Sue McNeil

“O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.”



If you would like to add your name to our prayer list, please call the church office: 886-4756 -ext. 21

Drew Gladwell
 Betty Smith
 Steve Pinkston
 Larry King
 Allene Gane
 David Kearns

Serving In January

Chalice Bearers

January 6

8 a.m.: Mary Beth Yates
 11 a.m.: Christiana Conrad
 Evelyn Morales

January 13

8 a.m.: John Wall, Jr.
 9 a.m.: John Wall, Jr.
 11 a.m.: Alicia Archibald
 Evelyn Morales

January 20

8 a.m.: Diane Popalis
 11 a.m.: Evelyn Morales
 Amo Kearns

January 27

8 a.m.: Amo Kearns
 11 a.m.: Mary Beth Yates
 John Wall, Jr.



Acolytes

January 6

8 a.m.: Charles Duckett
 11 a.m.: Briggs McKenzie
 Katie Cottam
 Sam Blackman
 Carter Chaney

January 13

8 a.m.: A.J. Rhoton
 9 a.m.: Lizzie Smith
 11 a.m.: Jessica Zander
 George Lindner
 Sarah Lindner
 Paul Zander

January 20

8 a.m.: Aaron Pugh
 11 a.m.: Margaret Hanson
 Trevor Gay
 Alex Hill
 KK Hanson

January 27

8 a.m.: Christiana Conrad
 11 a.m.: Braeden Moore
 Will Moore
 Sam Duckett
 Spencer Witcher



Lay Readers

January 6

11 a.m.: Revon Johnson
 5 p.m.: Mary Linthicum

January 13

9 a.m.: Fritz Falkson
 11 a.m.: Flo Memory

January 20

11 a.m.: Turner Popalis

January 27

11 a.m.: Revon Johnson



Reminder: The informal worship service is at 9:00 a.m. and will be held the second Sunday of each month. Also, the Children's Chapel will be closed on those days.

Did You Know? *A Column of Outreach at St. Mary's: Present and Past*

Submitted by Alice Whitehorne

If you are a Senior citizen, shut in, disabled, or unable to go to the grocery store and would like a hot meal delivered to your door five days a week, call Mobile Meals.

Much has changed since the first seventeen meals at thirty cents per meal to now; 160 meals at \$2.75 each.

Mobile Meals is now operated by an Executive Board consisting of eleven women and two men. It has volunteers from 23 churches and service organizations.

Mobile Meals is a non-profit self supporting organization, supported by memorials, churches, special offerings and individual donations. All monies received go for food, only. All office expenses are donated.

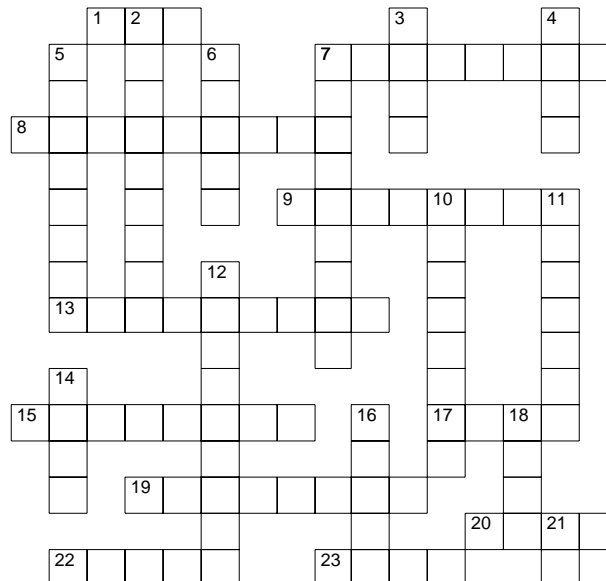
High Point is divided into nine sections (routes), and eighteen volunteers are needed each day, one to drive and one to deliver. Meals are prepared and picked up at Montileu school. On days the school is closed, a bag lunch is sent out the day before. On holidays such as Christmas, meals are purchased from High Point Hospital and special groups deliver them. Twenty churches and other organizations are involved in the delivery.

Volunteers that are friends of the clients have been known to take out trash, put drops in ears, and chase dogs. We are sometime the only people they see all day.

St. Mary's is responsible for delivering on the second Thursday of each month. Eighteen volunteers are needed if you would like to be placed on the substitute list, please call Alice Whitehorne at 883-0435.

Puzzle from

- Across**
1. rule of conduct
 7. offspring
 8. where the king was to be born
 9. bereavement
 13. mental anguish
 15. surrounding area
 17. era
 19. went back to
 20. sovereign
 22. king of Judea
 23. self-luminous celestial body



- Down**
2. reigned in Judah after Herod
 3. discover
 4. departed
 5. one who herds sheep
 6. images during sleep
 7. reassured
 10. boyhood town of Jesus
 11. where Joseph withdrew to
 12. outsmarted
 14. murder
 16. unlimited, boundless
 18. wisemen
 21. not at all

WORD LIST

Archelaus	disturbed	great	law	Nazareth	shepherd
Bethlehem	dream	Herod	left	no	star
children	find	kill	Magi	outwitted	time
comforted	Gallilee	King	mourning	returned	vicinity



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www.stmarysepisc.org

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We pray for the health and wellness of:

Office Hours: Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Telephone: (336) 886-4756
Fax: (336) 886-6150

The deadline for submissions to the next Herald is January 18th.
Electronic entries can be emailed to: administrator@stmarysepisc.org



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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Maria Graver

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ad-

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