



The Cloister

Parish Newsletter of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church November 2008



From Fr. John:

“We have nothing to fear except fear itself,” said President F. D. Roosevelt before his death in 1945. After that, however, there were a number of events, some which vindicated his statement, and some which seemed to contradict him. Many developments following WW2 were indeed very positive, on the one hand. Technology was just one such positive category. On the other hand, not everything was positive. For example, there was the Cold War, during which many millions of people felt they had a very great amount to fear, in terms of the nuclear era.

Well, we all know that life is never simple.

There are some things regarding which we **SHOULD** be very cautious indeed. For example, electricity or crude oil are wonderful providers of energy, transportation and other facilities. Yet both have their very real threats as well. Fire may arise simply in dispensing gasoline, or in a motor vehicle crash. More searchingly, there are carbon emissions. We should therefore be cautious in our use of electricity and crude oil.

There are other things regarding which we should no doubt **DISMISS OUR FEARS** and anxieties, and throw ourselves forward with boldness, bravery, and courage. For example, after a reasonable amount of thought about a given career path, it makes sense to throw oneself wholeheartedly into making the very best of whatever choice we have made in this regard.

It takes wisdom, or divine guidance, to know which is which. When is fear justified, and when is boldness the path to pursue?

It does seem to me that to be overly fearful within the current economic situation is to follow a path which can only worsen it. This may well be a time to be prudent, in terms of cutting back to the basics, in every way we can. And yet to be so fearful as to pull away from essentially healthy and positive things – to allow financial stresses to cause arguments at home, for example – would only worsen the effect of the economic downturn.

This is our month of renewing our stewardship commitment. I feel quite confident of the fact that there is no one who ever regretted their decision and commitment to return to God a percentage of their income. That practice is surely a basic foundation of what is good, healthy, and positive in our lives, our community, and the world. To be a generous person (especially when it is difficult to do), to be part of a generous community, or to receive the blessing of the generosity of others, when you need it, is surely to feel that one is involved in something very good indeed.

Jesus said many very challenging things, and these times recall his familiar “Lilies of the field” passage. Please read through it again, and mediate on it again, in Luke 12:27-34 (or Mt 6:25-34). These readings include these words: “Do not set your mind on food and drink; you are not to worry. For all these are things for the heathen to run after; but you have a Father who knows that you need them. No, set your mind on his kingdom, and all the rest will come to you as well.”

With love
Fr John

From the Vestry

Vestry seat

At the October Vestry meeting the vestry unanimously elected Marcia Farrell to fill Greg Orlick’s vacated seat. In accordance with the by-laws of our church, this seat may be filled until the annual election. As this vestry seat expires in 2010 the unexpired portion of this term shall be filled at the annual election.

Mission

Enclosed in this cloister, you will find a "wish list" of things that are needed by our troops. It would be very nice if this could be our mission for November. There will be a bucket placed in the back of the Church for your donations, which will be taken to Moravian Church for collection.

The Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Joe DiGiovanni, Karen Liedy, Ernie Figueroa, and Jay DiGiovanni) is seeking recommendations of candidates to fill the positions of churchwarden, three Vestry members (term to expire in 2012), and one Vestry member (term to expire in 2010). Please speak with one of the committee members if you are interested in serving on the vestry or would like to recommend someone to serve.

The Search Committee

Cathy Carlson

The vestry reviewed a “draft” of the parish profile and their recommendations have been incorporated into the profile. **A parish meeting will be held on Sunday, November 23rd following the 10:00 a.m. service** to discuss our next step in the search process, and other topics of interest to our parish.

If you have any questions regarding the search process please speak with any member of the Search Committee. Committee members are: Cathy Carlson, chair person; Rupert Blanchette, Robert Bohnenberger, Sylvia Campbell, Patrick Cunningham, Sue Peterson, Sally Rizzo and Mary Logan Zagami.

Fundraising Committee

Robert Campbell

The Autumn Festival was a great success not only financially, but also spiritually.

The Dinner on October Fourth made \$1,500; The Festival on October 18th (including donations) made \$5,258; and the Sweepstakes, drawn on October 19th, made \$1,325. The total for all three events is \$8,083.

The success of our Festival is due to each and every member of the Festival Committee and the entire Parish. Thank you to all who participated in each part of the Festival not only financially, but also by working at one or more event.

Your co-chairpersons are extremely pleased at the willingness of the Committee to participate in the planning as well as in the execution that was needed to make the Festival a true success.

We thank all who participated and look forward to next year and a bigger success.

Bob Campbell
Karen Liedy
Co-Chairpersons

<p>Congratulations to the sweepstakes winner; Linda Blanchette won \$1,000 - Herb and Barbara Smith won \$500 and Eileen Hermanssen won \$250.</p>

 *St. Mary's Church* 
Christmas Boutique

Saturday December 6th, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Holiday gifts, one of a kind hand made items and
ornaments, baked goods, raffles and more.*

Your help is extremely important. We need new and unused items for the gift table. These items may be brought to the church every day from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. until December 5th.

Home baked goods are also needed, and may be brought to the church on the day of the boutique, December 6th.

All suitable donations will be gladly accepted. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 718-442-1527 or Jane Cangemi at 718-816-6055.

Our Parish Family



Animal Blessing at
St. Mary's
on Oct. 11th.



Family Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m.

*"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord For all His love."*

Celebrate



November Birthdays

November 2 - Jane Hepner; 6 - David Carlson, Kathy LaRosa; 11 - Mark Oyelaya;
24 - Karen Liedy

November Anniversaries

November 1 - Jeff and Kim Yarns; 2 - Claire and Mark Oyelaya (12th anniversary)
10 - Robert and Kathy LaRosa;

If your special day is not in our records, call the Parish Office at 718-442-1527, or send an e-mail to administrator@stmarysi.com so it can be added.

If you know of anyone who is feeling poorly, or is a shut-in and would like a pastoral visit, please contact Fr. John Stubbs at 347-844-2402 or the parish office, 718-442-1527.

Calendar

Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Weekday Services: Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by
Bible Study.
Friday 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Prayer Book Holy Days, 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

November Calendar

Guest Preacher from Food for the Poor Mission - Sun, November 9

Search Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mon, November 10

Stewardship Sunday - Sun, November 16
Altar Society Corporate Communion and luncheon - Sun, November 16

Vestry Meeting at 7:30 p.m. - Tues, November 18

Prayer Group at 7:30 p.m. - Wed, November 19

Parish Meeting (following the 10:00 a.m. service) - Sun, November 23

Thanksgiving Eve Family Service w/ music at 7:30 p.m. Wed, November 26

Thanksgiving Day Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m. - Thurs, November 27

Advent I

- Evensong and Benediction at 4:00 p.m. Sun, November 30

Memorial Dove Ornament

In memory of our loved ones during this Christmas season, we are again offering a memorial dove ornament. Each dove ornament, labeled with the name of our loved one, will be hung on our Saint Mary's Christmas tree. The dove ornament can also be giving as a thanksgiving. Each dove ornament is available for a donation of \$20. Please make check payable to St. Mary's Church and complete the information below.

If you donated a dove ornament last year, your ornament will again be hung on the tree, and your loved one remembered during the Christmas season. You do not need to resubmit the name.

Memorial Dove given in memory of: _____

Given by (your name): _____

Thank you, The Wardens and Vestry of Saint Mary's Church