



The Cloister

Parish Newsletter of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church October 2008



From Fr. John:

We have reached the end of a long (and hopefully for some of us at least, lazy) summer.

September is such a unique month, during which we look forward to all which lies ahead. We have students (young and old) beginning a new academic year.

We were delighted to have our own Sunday school and choir start up again on 7 and 14 September. September also delivers to us the change of the weather, flowers, trees, and daylight. Furthermore, at this time a multitude of organizations enter into a new cycle. This is a period in which there are suddenly meetings all over the place -- but far fewer of them are on the beach or at the barbecue!

It was wonderful to have a visit by Diocesan Bishop Mark Sisk on Sunday 7 September. On arriving at the church, he said it was good to see the beauty of St Mary's again. In his sermon, Bishop Mark reminded us of the importance of worship, nurture, and mission. He received our Celia Nalty into the Episcopalian denomination and also prayed at our 9/11 Cross and memorial, adjacent to the Rose Garden. During the week after that, he wrote to say that he enjoyed the visit - as did we. The music, the catering, and every aspect of the event were all outstanding. Thanks to everyone who made a contribution to this!

On another most worthy event, this September, yesterday (Wed 17th) we of St Mary's joined other churches in ringing our bells in honor of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Regarding a number of people we keep in our prayers, parish warden Herb Smith, and Janet Forssell are amongst people making good progress regarding health matters.

There is every reason to be looking positively towards the future. The finances are solid, the parishioners are in good spirit, and there are ideas floating around. One can see another positive prospect in the Parish Profile, which has been produced by the Search Committee. Cathy Carlson (718-447-0519) chairs this Committee. I am sure that they would welcome your comments and reflections.

In October we have two notable fundraising events for this Parish of St Mary's: the Autumn Dinner on Sat 4 October and the Autumn Festival on Sat 18 October. Please join in with these. I know they are most important events in our life as a Parish. I am sure they will be happy. To the extent we all join in, they are sure to succeed.

I have written separately about the current economic context, which may be causing grave concern to a number of us.

So September is such a striking month, is it not? St Paul said, "Forgetting what is behind me, and reaching out for that which lies ahead, I press towards the goal to win the prize which is God's call the life above, in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14). Let us do that too.

With much love

Fr John Stubbs

From the Vestry

The vestry would like to thank everyone who helped make the Bishop's visit a great success. Bishop Sisk thanked us for our hospitality saying, "It was good to be with you this past Sunday for what I thought was a wonderful visit". The vestry had the opportunity to meet with Bishop Sisk following the service.

The Search Committee

Cathy Carlson

The search committee has submitted a "draft" of the parish profile to the vestry for their review and comments. Once the profile has been addressed and approved a parish meeting will be held to update everyone as to our next step in the search process. 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.

The Church of Saint Andrew

Led by The Reverend Michael F. Delaney, Rector
Invites you to join a 10 day Pilgrimage

December 26 – January 4, 2008
"Heritage of England"

London – Windsor – Bath – Stonehenge – Oxford – Stratford – Canterbury
Inclusive from Newark
\$2,150.00 + \$475.00 Departure Taxes

FEAR NOT

"Fear not," said Gabriel to Mary (Lk 1:30). In the Scriptures, when they appear, the angels often repeat something similar to that.

There is quite a lot of fear around just at the moment - which is quite understandable. For indeed, there is an understandable fear related to the agony of the world of finance. We can quite clearly see the depth, the magnitude, and the immense impact of the meltdown of an array of financial houses or markets in this country any around the world. Homes are being lost, to the extent that disease is growing up in the gardens of houses in which people no longer live. Yet the angel says, "Fear not."

Indeed, there is a logical alarm related to the weather, the climate, and the ecology. We have heard of, read of, and seen (on TV, if not in person) the devastation wrought by hurricanes along the Gulf coast. Nevertheless, "Fear not," says the messenger of the Lord.

Indeed, there are sensible concerns related to the question of current and future sources of oil, energy, and food. Yet still the seraph calms our quailing hearts, saying, "Fear not."

Along with the great financial minds of the country and the world, we also wonder about the reasons. For example, is this related to over extension of credit? Did any aspect of all this arise from 9/11?

In a very short space of time we seem to have swung from the heights to the depths. We used to hear phrases like, 'longest period of sustained improvement in the market.' Now we appear to be (suddenly again) at the doorstep of a scenario comparable to what we read in Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Yet still we have that great "Fear not." The Angel (or angel) of the Lord said that long ago. It remains true for still just at a moment such as this. The angel of the Lord still continues to say this to us today. At every Eucharist we say, "May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep and fortify you."

Why should we not fear? Why should we be confident and peaceful in God? The reason is that the basic elements of life, of love, and of community continue to be the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In the Gospel of John, Jesus restores everything to the way God intended it to be. The Eucharistic liturgy constantly reminds us that Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, and mind; and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' And, 'On these two hang all the law and the prophets.'

In a multitude of ways we are learning again how true those words are, and how important they are. For example: We have stream, and river, of the very many ordinary ways in which we care for one another within the community of faith. On a wider horizon, through ordinary taxes, the governments of the world are trying to rescue the proud members of several of the largest financial houses, or individual mortgagees of this world. Surely all such actions relate to loving one's neighbor. Then again, through adjustments to energy use, the world is trying to make reparations regarding existing damage to the environment. We are learning the hard way

what it means to live in a way that cares for our neighbor, our generation, and generations to come. Certainly, we have a way to go; but at least we have begun on the journey.

"Have no anxiety, but in everything make your request known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving. Then the peace of God, which is beyond our utmost understanding, will keep guard over your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7, NEB).

Fundraising Committee

Robert Campbell

The Autumn Festival will be on Saturday, October 18, 2008, Rain or Shine!

Donations are essential to make the Autumn Festival a great success. The Church will be open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday to receive donations, or you can contact the Booth Chairpersons as listed in our past mailing. Also contact the Booth chairpersons if you wish to volunteer at a particular booth. Volunteers are needed.

Donations are requested as follows:

Attic Treasures - any sellable items

The Book Booth - used or new books of all varieties

The Gift Shoppe - new and used gift items

On the day of the Festival the following donations are needed:

The Bakery Booth - HOMEMADE cakes, cookies, jams, fudge, etc.

The Cloister Tea - finger sandwiches and baked goods

- Don't forget to purchase Sweepstakes to win prizes of \$1000, \$500, \$250.
- The Land of Chance offers chances to win an Acer laptop, a Global Positioning System (GPS) and a Nintendo Wii gaming system.
- On the day of the Festival there will be a pull - off raffle where you can win up to \$100 instantly.

Come and enjoy the day!

Our Parish Family

Engagement News – Herb and Barbara Smith are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Matthew, to Miss Rachael Sorrentino. Matthew and Rachael were baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's.



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

October Dates:

Blessing of the Animals, Saturday, October 11 at noon. (Church front lawn)

Wednesday Night Prayer Group (third Wednesday of every month), October 15 at 8:00 p.m.

Autumn Festival, Saturday, October 18, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., rain or shine

Sweepstakes Drawing on Sunday, October 19 at 4 p.m.

**** Vestry Meeting, Tuesday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.**

Search Committee Meeting, Monday, October 27

On Saturday, October 25 at 11:00 a.m. **Fr. Schraplau** will be celebrating his 30th anniversary of ordination with a mass at St. Alban's Church.

Celebrate



October Birthdays

October 1 – Jane Cangemi, 13 – Tombemus Dempster, 26 – Marlene McDermott,
29 – Celia Nalty

October Anniversaries

October 14 – Herb & Barbara Smith 26, Frank & Jane Cangemi

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.

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Castleton (*established 1848*)

Telephone: 718-442-1527 Fax: 718-442-4555

www.stmarysi.com

Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
 10:00 a.m. Nursery Care and Sunday school

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

PRIESTS: Fr. John Stubbs, *INTERIM PASTOR*. Fr. Richard Markham, *Sunday Assistant*, Fr. John Walsted,
Honorary Asst.
 Fr. William English, *Rector Emeritus*

WARDENS: Mr. Joseph DiGiovanni, (718-356-5484) Mr. Herbert Smith III (718-816-0690)

VESTRY: Mr. Robert Campbell, Mrs. Cathy Carlson (*treasurer*), Mr. David Carnegie, Mr. Jay DiGiovanni, Mr.
Ernest Figueroa,
 Ms. Karen Liedy, Ms. Sally Rizzo, Mr. Joseph Zagami, Mr. Patrick Cunningham (*Clerk*).

PARISH OFFICE: Miss Cara Barry, administrator; Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

SEXTON: Mr. Edward Barry; Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Ms. Arlene Weiss, *Superintendent*.

ST. MARY'S CHOIR: Mr. Daniel Fannon, *Organist and Choirmaster*

ST. MARY'S ACOLYTE GUILD: Dr. Robert Bohnenberger, *Master*

ST. MARY'S ALTAR SOCIETY: Mrs. Jane Cangemi, *Directress*, Mrs. Cathy Meyer, *Secretary*