



The Floister
Parish Newsletter of
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
October 2009



From Fr. John:

My dear brothers and sisters

Last Sunday I joined one of our **Sunday School** children during the coffee hour. Jason Vega is a fourth grader. I asked him, "How do you like your Sunday School class?" His bright eyes sparkled, as he replied, "I like it." Then, after a moment's pause, he looked back at me and said, "I love it."

Well, let us give thanks to God and to all the work that Arlene Weiss and her team have done over the last months to prepare for this new Sunday School year. And for each member of the congregation, why not let some other children know about Sunday School at St Mary's? I am confident that child will spend their whole life appreciating your opening that door to them.

On Sat 3 Oct we held our **Fall Festival**; and in two weeks, the Autumn Dinner. I have watched with gratitude and a sense of thanksgiving to notice the following: I do not know all the details concerned, but I do know that the chairpersons of these annual fundraising events have been extremely generous in their own leadership contributions to the events, and this year (with Herb Smith and Bob Campbell as chairs) is no different. Thank you both very much. I have also seen parishioners bring in some very valuable personal items for the Festival, and going to great lengths to prepare for their role in these events. Thank you to each and every one of you.

On Sat 10 October at noon, the nearest moment we can do this to **St Francis' Day, we have the blessing of the animals**. Please do bring along your own wonderful animal friend for a blessing, and for a lovely shared moment around this.

Through a kind gift, I have been reading the wonderful "**Private Devotions**" of **Lancelot Andrewes**, who died as the Bishop of Winchester in 1626. We celebrated his feast last week. Andrewes was amongst the most highly accomplished Anglicans ever, at least in terms of his mastery of ancient near Eastern languages. As I understand it, he was the leading figure in Authorized King James translation of the Bible (1604 and following). At the same time, that period was marked by Court corruption, and most unfortunately, it appears that Andrewes was not wholly removed from this. Truth is stranger than fiction, and the prayers of this book, together with the prefaces, make dramatic reading! Every page contains a prayer which takes one to one's own knees. They are prayers which have deeply enriched our current BCP. Do read the book!

Warm regards

Fr John Stubbs

Parish News

The outreach discussion group, worship discussion group, and pastoral care groups have all been busy; and the Christian Education meeting of May 2009 with Canon Mitchell resulted in some modifications as the Sunday School year began in September 2009. Through the weeks ahead, there will be various matters raised from those groups with the parish at large.

The worship discussion group has suggested holding the blessing of the new Parish doors on Sunday October 25.

Along with two baptisms scheduled for All Saints on November 1, there would be the blessing of the new hand bells on that same Sunday.

Sunday School is underway. Please be sure that all school age children are registered and attend regularly.

**** Nursery Care **** - Alison Bohnenberger and Emily Prendergast will be assisting Arlene and Claire with the pre-school and baby sitting provided during the 10:00 a.m. service.

Interparish Council of Staten Island

Diocesan Bishop Mark Sisk and Suffragan Bishop Cathy Roskam both met together with the clergy of this Interparish Council of Staten Island during September. Following from the retirement of Bishop Don Taylor, there is some hope of a new bishop being allocated to Staten Island (in his stead) in about a year's time.

The Church Club of this Diocese will be visiting St Mary's Church (amongst other SI churches) on Sat October 31, and will have their lunch in our hall.

Fundraising Committee

The second Autumn Festival was held on Saturday, October 3 and even though part of the event was held indoors we had a steady flow of people. On the day of the festival (including donation) we raised \$3,200.

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.

Please reserve your seat for the Autumn Dinner on Saturday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. The prize drawing for the cruise (gift certificate valued at \$1,200) and the Sweepstakes Share to win \$1,000, \$500 or \$250 will take place at the Dinner. **(Winner need not be present).**

⇒ We are still selling sweepstake shares and raffle tickets. Please return your tickets to the parish office by October 15. Additional tickets will be sold upon request and on the night of the dinner. Please help support our parish.

Our Parish Family

There have been some wonderful answers to prayers, including our dear Bruce Gundry. He is slowly recovering, and we are most grateful to God for this. Indeed, surely it is a good thing not only to ask for prayers, but also to offer thanksgivings -- and to share those thanksgivings. Here is a lovely letter to the Parish:

Dear Members of St Mary's

I wish to thank you all so much for including me in your prayers and thoughts.

My treatment... has been unusually long and difficult for me and for my wife Claire. I will be thinking of your prayers especially on Sept 1st when I am scheduled for yet another procedure.

With God's love and grace, and caring by folks such as you, I am hopeful all will eventually end well.

With much appreciation to my caring friends at St Mary's Episcopal Church

Bill Drinnan

P.S. By coincidence, the Post Date on your card was August 13, my 80th birthday. May God bless you all!

Condolences:

We grieve with Connie Mason on the loss of her brother George; and also with Jay and Cindy Bergman on their loss of their mother Barbara Bergman. Barbara, a long, faithful, and very diligent member of St Mary's Parish was laid to rest in the Memorial Garden of St Mary's on Friday, September 25.

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.

Celebrate