



The Cloister

Parish Newsletter of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church September 2008



From Fr. John:

"Before the time of scourges. Grant us thy peace."
T.S.Eliot A Song for Simeon.

Summer has not been quiet. Important debates have been taking place over the last month or two, including the debates between the presidential candidates on important subjects like energy, economics, the environment, and international relations. In the Anglican Communion, surely the most searching of debates concern not only the foregoing ones, but also global poverty (the Millennium Development Goals, or MDG) and issues of gender and sexuality. Fortunately, the 2008 Lambeth Conference of our bishops in the United Kingdom appears to have been a good deal more mutually respectful than was the case last time (1998). The Lambeth Conferences always have had many positive spin-offs for the church. One small example is the high-quality, 8-minute DVD describing our Diocese of New York, which you are welcome to borrow from me if you wish. (Please visit our Parish reading table; or <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/> on the web.)

These are all very significant matters, which affect people around the world, at all levels of society. Nearer home, in our own parish, we have our own family joys and tears, including these: Richard and Vincenza Rella had the joy of the baptism of their grandchild, Sophie Marie. The young people met to wish our Eagle Scout and acolyte David Carlson well, as he begins his residential Mechanical Engineering studies at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. Treasurer Cathy Carlson, Wardens Herb Smith and Joe DiGiovanni, the Vestry, and a whole team of diligent members have led us through with a sound financial structure and steadily stronger morale as a Parish. The Wednesday morning Eucharist and Bible Study, and the Friday Morning Prayer services are a great delight. We have a steady flow of visitors on Sundays.

Much more difficult in our life as a parish have been matters like these: Herb Smith is preparing for surgery later this week, both Kim Yarns and vestryman Dave Carnegie's father Wallace are undergoing medical care for cancer; and the Carnegie family also suffered the loss of Donna Esposito (Dave's sister). Concerns like these are constantly in our prayers. I am grateful for the ministry of Arthur and Joan Ullstrom (of Ascension Parish) and our healing prayer group each month, on the third Wednesday evening; and the participation of our Eucharistic ministers in visits and communions to the sick or the shut-in.

Over the past summer, as a parish we have been going through an educational process on Anglican liturgy in the Book (or various books) of Common Prayer. In the future, we look forward to the 'New Year' being launched on Sunday 7 September with the visit of our Diocesan Bishop Mark Sisk at 10 a.m., at which Celia Nalty will be received into the Episcopal Church.

Richard Rella is engaged in a church growth study project, an outcome of which should be the vestry considering various scenarios for the future life of this Parish. The Parish Autumn Festival is approaching, in October. Many people are joining together to make a success of this. As one example, I would like to say thank you to Bob Campbell on behalf of all of us for not only leading the fundraising committee, but also for his very generous gift of a laptop computer as a prize for the raffle. If we all do something, no matter how small, the Fall Festival is bound to be a success.

Regarding community concerns, I regularly receive information from organizations like our Episcopalian Interparish Council, the Alzheimer's Foundation, Project Hospitality (on issues connected with hunger and shelter), Meals on Wheels, Richmond Home Needs, and others. The vestry donated urgently needed items for the care of infants in need, and this was much appreciated. At the national level, we have the mixed news that "The number of minors being held in adult jails and prisons in this country has dropped substantially, according to a new study based on federal data. [Yet] The decline in the juvenile custody rate was significantly greater for whites than for African-Americans, who account for less than 15 percent of the youth population but nearly 40 percent of those in confinement." Can we try to solve this?

I (and surely you too) try to keep in touch with, or participate in some of the proceedings of such organizations. I do look forward to the time we have a functioning Mission Committee which can guide our activities as a parish. Please let me know if you would be interested in participating, or else look at our reading table to see the kinds of things being asked of us.

So there are the tides of life, and the debates. There are enduring struggles and the moments of victory, from the widest level to the most personal level; from the church worldwide, to our own St Mary's! We will observe our Patronal Feast day (St Mary) on Sunday 26th October. We look forward to a joyous celebration, to mark all that we have journeyed through together, and calling upon the guidance and strength of God for all before us.

May God bless you, keep you, and lift up his countenance upon you and yours,

From Fr. John Stubbs

The Search Committee

Cathy Carlson

The search committee has completed a "draft" of the parish profile and will submit it to the Vestry on September 2nd for their review and approval. Once the profile is complete, a parish meeting will be held to update the parish 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.

From the Vestry

On Sunday September 7th **The Rt. Rev. Mark Sisk**, Bishop of New York, will be celebrating the 10:00 a.m. mass. Please join us as we welcome him and we invite all of our parishioners and friends to be in attendance. Join us following the 10:00 a.m. service for a reception in the Parish House. Please note there will be one service on this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (no 8:00 a.m. service).

Gregg Orlick has resigned from the Vestry. In accordance with the Bylaws, the vestry is in the process of considering names to fill this vacancy. If you would like to be considered for this vestry seat, or have any questions, speak with the wardens, or any member of the vestry.

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 14. Please be sure that all school age children are registered and attend regularly.

Next Vestry meeting is Tuesday, September 2 at 7:30 o.m.

Fundraising Committee

Robert Campbell

St. Mary's, Castleton will hold its First Autumn Festival. The festival will consist of three parts; the first being a Dinner on Saturday, October 4th, 2008, the second being the Festival on Saturday, October 18th, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Rain or Shine) and the third being the Sweepstakes Drawing on Sunday, October 19th, 2008 at 4 p.m.

A separate mailing was sent detailing these events. The Autumn Festival 2008 depends on Volunteers like you! Have fun while helping our Church. Please support our parish.

Fall Festival Committee meetings Sunday, September 14 following the 10:00 a.m. service
Sunday, October 5th following the 10:00 a.m. service

Our Parish Family

Births:

Galt and Marlene MacDermot welcome a granddaughter, Summer Elizabeth, born on July 11.

New Members:

Welcome to Tony & Nancy Ventrone and to Kate O'Hara. We welcome you to the life of our parish.

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| <p>Donna Marie Esposito, beloved sister of Dave Carnegie passed away on August 6, 2008. Our Condolences go out to Dave and Kathy and to their family.</p> |
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Calendar

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| 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 |

September Dates:

Vestry Meeting, Tuesday, September 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Bishop's Visit, The Rt. Rev. Mark Sisk, Bishop of New York, will be celebrating the 10:00 a.m. mass with us on Sunday, September 7.

Fundraising meeting, Sunday, September 14 following the 10:00 a.m. service

Wednesday Night Prayer Group (third Wednesday of every month), September 17 at 8:00 p.m.

Search Committee meeting, Monday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m.

October Dates:

Autumn Dinner, Saturday, October 4 – Details to follow

Fundraising meeting, Sunday, October 5 following the 10:00 a.m. service

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

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.

Patronal Feast day (St. Mary) on Sunday, October 26

Celebrate



September Birthdays

September 3 – Fr. John Stubbs 8 – Ryan Lamarche 9 - Rose Myslicki, Fr. Schraplau;
12 - Patrick Cunningham; 15 - Alison Bohnenberger, Linda Klein;
16 - Arthur Grannis; 19 - Kevin Carlson; 20 - Matthew Smith;
24 - Gloria Carlton, Peter Franco; 26 - Ted Yarns; 27 - Zachary Davis.

September Anniversaries

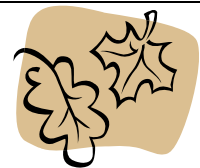
September 12 - Arthur and Faith Grannis; 15 - Lee and Elizabeth Davis;
27 - Dave and Cathy Carlson

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.



Autumn Festival



October 18, 2008

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*gift items...baked goods...books...
carnival games...chuck wagon...tea room...
attic treasures... balloons...pretzels and more...*