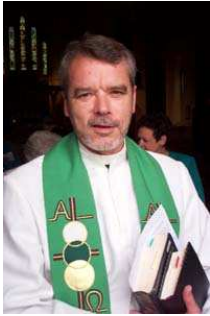




The Floister

Parish Newsletter of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church September 2010



From Fr. John:

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"*

My dear sisters and brothers:

The summer of 2010 has been a dramatic season. Yet, though we may feel that we are in the teeth of not only one storm, but many storms, we should remember that we are not alone. About three thousand years ago, Moses and the children of Israel had their fair share of desert heat and life-or-death drama as well.

During this summer, at a personal and light hearted level, so many people have seized upon the opportunity to relax, to travel, or to spend time with friends and family. It is good to see so many members of St. Mary's returning home, safe and happy. As a way of launching the new academic year at St. Mary's, there will be a "Homecoming and Patronal festival" on Sunday 19 September. There will be wonderful music on this Sunday, and it will be the first Sunday for the Sunday school. Please do invite friends to enjoy this special Sunday with us.

In terms of Parish Pastoral events during this summer, we had two joyful baptisms in early August; Nia Leigh Jackson, daughter of Mark & Winona Jackson (granddaughter of Rupert & Linda Blanchette) and Isabella Grace Dannecker, daughter of Peter & Danielle Dannecker. In October, Matthew Smith and Rachel Sorrentino will be married here. Sadly, however, we have just laid to rest Charles Donnelly, a long and faithful member of the Parish, with his wife Nellie. The U.S. Navy trumpeted Taps for him at his interment. Our condolences go out to Nellie, to his brother and to his cousin Eleanor, and to their whole family.

The months past and ahead reflect significant staff changes at St. Mary's:

- We had the farewell event for organist Dan Fannon at the end of July.
- In August, Dr. Leonard Lehrman came to be our interim organist.
- After many months of hard work, God willing, in October the Parish will be welcoming a new rector, Fr. Kevin Fisher. Congratulations to the search Committee and the Parish Vestry on this accomplishment.
- Sunday 26 September will be my last Sunday at St. Mary's. It will be a poignant moment. There have been many wonderful relationships and many positive steps forward, for which I will always be grateful.

Regarding the children of the Parish, through several volunteers from St. Mary's, we participated in a summer vacation bible school with Ascension Parish in July. Then again, the acolytes are showing signs of renewed life. As said above, September sees the start of the new Sunday school year. It is ever more important and urgent for the Parish to take a most thoughtful account of, the hundreds of parents and children in our immediate neighborhood; and make an active, vibrant, courageous, and generous commitment to them.

During this summer, there have been several most challenging elements in the nation and the world. Just some of the many items included these: After months of a dreadful and massive oil spill from the BP deep water oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, it was a great relief to have the huge leak eventually plugged.

Furthermore, recovery in the U.S. economy has slowed during this quarter, prompting additional action from the Federal Reserve. In terms of weather, New Orleans reached the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, still recovering. Yet this summer, there have been dreadful monsoon floods in Pakistan. Then, while the drawdown of U.S. troops in Iraq approaches, yet the war in Afghanistan still continues with an uncertain future. This is a mixed record.

Locally, perhaps because of the scarcity of work, we have had repeated violence in Port Richmond against Hispanic workers.

In the light of all these serious matters, we approach the season of the midterm Congressional elections. Approaching the voting box, we all need to pray and to think very hard indeed. I wonder what St. Mary would have said or done if she were living here and now.

We of St. Mary's are a small community of faith. We come from many different stations in life. We are glad to be gathering together again after the long, hot summer. From the summer of 2010 into the fall of 2010, we journey on together in faith and in mutual care and concern. In Luke chapter 1 we read that St Mary journeyed to see her cousin Elizabeth.

Mary sang that great song of the Magnificat. Let us join together with her in praise of God, taking strength in our shared faith, proclaiming the greatness of the Lord, in our "Homecoming and Patronal festival" of St. Mary on Sunday 19.

With much love

And with prayers for the future of St. Mary's Parish

Fr. John Stubbs

Please note: Regular Sunday Service Schedule resumes in Sept.
Sunday Holy Eucharist; 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

From the Vestry

With the approval of Bishop Sisk and Bishop Roskam, the Wardens and Vestry of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church are pleased to announce the call of the Rev. William Kevin Fisher as Rector. Fr. Kevin, his wife Jane and family will be with us come the beginning of October. Fr. Kevin's first Sunday as celebrant will be October 3rd. A coffee and cake reception will follow both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:00 a.m. services on October 3rd giving everyone an opportunity to meet Fr. Kevin and his family. Please join us in the Parish House following each service.

We thank Fr. John Stubbs for his continued love and support for our parish during this interim period. He is a true friend of St. Mary's and we wish him much happiness.

Thank you to the search committee for your dedication and time. Through the process, we have accomplished what we sought. We look forward to starting our new ministry with Kevin Fisher. Following is a brief introduction:

The Reverend William Kevin Fisher was born and raised in East Tennessee. He attended Milligan College, a private Christian liberal arts college, where he met his best friend and future wife, Jane Phillips. In 1980 Kevin enlisted in the United States Air Force and served twenty years on active duty in the military intelligence branch as a Russian cryptologic linguist. Their daughter, Etolia Brooke, was born in 1981. During their time on active duty Kevin completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian at the University of Maryland, while Jane completed a Masters degree in special education. Kevin and family served tours of duty in San Antonio, England, the National Security Agency, the Defense Language Institute (Presidio of Monterey, CA), and Berlin, Germany. Kevin served as an intelligence mission supervisor in Berlin during the fall of the Berlin Wall. He also served as an aircrew interpreter for relief missions to the former Soviet Union in 1991. The last nine years of active duty, Kevin served as a Russian language instructor at the Defense Language Institute. In 2000 he was named Foreign Language Teacher of the Year. He retired from active duty in 2001.

Having entered the process for ordination in 1996 at St. Mary's by-the-Sea, Pacific Grove, in the Diocese of El Camino Real (Central California Coast), Kevin and Jane moved back to Tennessee in 2002 to attend seminary at the University of the South, School of Theology (Sewanee). After seminary Kevin was accepted into a Doctor of Philosophy program in Religion and Personality at Vanderbilt University, a program which uses psychoanalytic/psychodynamic theory as a method of interpreting religious experience. He minored in the field of Bioethics, which studies the process of ethics in medical decision making. While at Vanderbilt, Kevin served as a medical chaplain at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the Vanderbilt Burn Center, and Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

Having completed a three-year residency at Vanderbilt, Kevin and Jane moved to Las Vegas to join their daughter and son-in-law, Rene, in awaiting the arrival of their daughter, Savanna Leigh. While in Vegas, Etolia completed a Masters in Accounting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In Vegas Kevin served as a hospice chaplain and as associate priest at Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church. In 2008 Kevin accepted a call as rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Barre, Vermont, and the entire family moved as well. Since November, 2009 Kevin has also served as the interim campus minister at the University of Vermont. He has also actively served the Diocese of Vermont on Diocesan Council, the Executive Committee, and the Commission on Ministry for Christian Formation.

In addition to spending time with his family, Kevin enjoys the outdoors, playing with the family's two dogs, reading, coffee, and gardening. An active veteran, Kevin is a proud member of Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He and the entire family are eager to join the community of faith at St. Mary's.

Sunday School registration will begin on Sunday, September 12 and continue through September 26. Please be sure that all school age children are registered and attend regularly.

Nursery Care ** We are in need of two or more people to assist with the pre-school and baby sitting service provided during the 10:00 a.m. service. If you are willing to assist on Sundays, please speak with Fr. John or Arlene Weiss.

Altar Society

The Altar Society's annual appeal is underway and your monetary help is needed. If you are able, please make a donation and support the work of this ministry. Thank you to those who have already contributed, your support is appreciated.

Choir

Choir rehearsal begins on Sunday, September 5th following the 10:00 a.m. service. All are welcome to join. The Choir will be in session beginning September 12.

The Parish thanks Mr. Dan Fannon for his years of service and for his love and support of St. Mary's Church. We wish him well. Over the next few months, Dr. Leonard Lehrman will serve as Interim Organist / Choir Director. Upon the arrival of Fr. Kevin, the music committee will interview candidates for the permanent positions.

Fundraising Committee

Robert Campbell

This year we help our Annual Festival in June and were treated to beautiful weather. I thank Fr. Stubbs and the Parish for the wonderful cooperation in our Annual Festival. I especially thank our booth chairpersons and their committee members who donated their time and resources to make the Annual Festival a success. Also to those who could not attend but contributed financially, your support is appreciated. The Festival and dinner were financially successful as we raised over \$6,000.

We look forward to another great event in 2011.

Congratulations to the Sweepstakes Winners;

Rose Myslicki - \$500 and Arthur Grannis - \$250.

Congratulations to the Raffle Basket Winners

Wine Baskets – Daniel Smith and Gloria Rios

Sahadi Gourmet Basket – Linda Blanchette

Keurig Coffee Maker – Linda Klein

Coffee assortment – Joan Coogan

Dooney & Burke – Hope Rizzo

Vera Wang Vase and Gift Cert – Kemit Peterson

Avator Movie – Carlson Family

Dog Basket – Rich Garcia

Cat Basket – Dave & Kathy Carnegie

Vacation Bible School

This summer, Marcia Farrell, Edie Kuffner and Cathy Carlson assisted at The Church of the Ascension's Vacation Bible School program. Ascension held a wonderful one week program filled with bible stories, crafts, music and fun. Hopefully, next summer St. Mary's Church will be able to support its own one week program, but in order to do so, we will need volunteers. **Additionally, anyone interested in volunteering their time to Vacation Bible School or any activity where they would regularly supervise youth activities is required to attend a Safe Church Workshop; Safeguarding God's Children (see notice on the following page).**

SAFE CHURCH WORKSHOP

In the interest of education and awareness, all churches and institutions in the Diocese of New York are expected to have their employees, Sunday school teachers and other volunteers who regularly supervise youth activities to attend the child workshop "Safeguarding God's Children." Additionally, employees are expected to attend the adult workshop "Safeguarding God's People."

We are fortunate that the next workshop is offered on Staten Island at Christ Church New Brighton on Saturday, October 2. To register please call Cathy Romano in the Christ Church office, 718-727-6100 or email her at christchurch@verizon.net. Please indicate if you need a lunch.

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2010

Place: Christ Church New Brighton

Time: Session pertaining to children: 8:30am - Noon.

Trainer: Marcia Novey

Cost: \$20 for one session.

Our Parish Family

After taking the Bar Exam this July, **Remington Gregg** has move to Washington D.C. Remington will be working at the White House in the Office of Science and Technology Policy. He will be working on ways to increase government transparency in decision making, and on policies that will allow the government to foster greater civic participation in decision making. Also, he will be working on policy to increase math and science scores within minority students and students who live in rural areas. The goal is to encourage more students in our technological age to enter into professionals within math and science. We wish Remington well.

College Graduation News: In May, Laura Cunningham and Emily Davis graduated from Muhlenberg College, PA. We wish them much success and happiness.

Condolences:

Charles Donnelly, beloved husband of Nellie Donnelly died on August 23, 2010. Our condolences go out to Nellie and their family.

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

Calendar

September Dates:

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

IPC Meeting, Wed. September 8 at 7:45 p.m.

Worship Committee meeting, Thurs. September 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Outreach Committee meeting, Tuesday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Prayer Group (third Wednesday of every month), September 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Homecoming Sunday, Sunday September 19 – 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Special Coffee hour celebrating Fr. John's Ministry with us, Sunday, September 26
following the 10:00 a.m. service

⇒ Mark your Calendar:

October

Safe Church Workshop at Christ Church Staten Island, Saturday October 2

Fr. Kevin Fisher begins his ministry with us, Sunday October 3

Blessing of the Animals, Saturday, October 9 at 11:00 a.m.



November

Bishop's Visitation Schedule – Bishop Catherine S. Roskam will be with us at St. Mary's, during the 10:00 a.m. service, on Sunday, November 14, 2010.

The Diocese of New York is on a two-year visitation cycle, which means that they are committed to ensuring that every parish will have a visitation by Bishop Sisk, Bishop Roskam or Bishop Donovan at their principal Sunday morning service once in every two year period. The three bishops rotate through the visitations, so that each church can anticipate receiving all three bishops within a six year period. Bishop Sisk was with us in September 2008.

A parish receiving a visitation should expect that the visiting bishop will preach and celebrate the Eucharist. The bishop will also meet with the vestry, and review the books in which the parish records of baptisms, marriages, confirmations and burials are recorded. Although customary, it is not necessary that there be confirmations at the time of the visitation. We are not scheduled to have confirmation at this visit.

ESSAY

Coping with Crises Close to Someone Else's Heart

By **HARRIET BROWN**

Published New York Times: August 16, 2010

[This article has been shortened.]

Over the last few years, my family has weathered our share of crises. Our younger daughter, then our older daughter and then my mother-in-law (were all three in life and death medical situations).

So we've dealt with [our] trauma -- and our friends, family and community did, too. For the most part, we were blessed with support and love; friends ran errands for us, delivered meals, sat in hospital waiting rooms, walked, talked and cried with us. But a couple of friends disappeared entirely. I began to wonder what had happened.

Often the closer one feels to the family in crisis, the harder it is to cope. People are grateful that the trauma didn't happen to them. Awkwardness is another common reaction — not knowing what to say or do.

The more vulnerable people feel, the harder it may be to connect. They could picture all too vividly the same thing happening to their children; they felt too much empathy rather than not enough. For us, too, the friends who had disappeared had daughters exactly the same age as ours. "A compassionate response is 'I am praying for myself to have the courage to help you.' " True empathy inspires instrumental aid. A friend's mother went through a series of medical crises and moved to an assisted-living facility in our town. I e-mailed her a list of tasks I could do, and asked if any of them would be helpful. My friend responded by asking if I'd visit her mother on a day she couldn't. Her mother was glad for the company, and my friend felt reassured, knowing that her mother wasn't alone. The time I spent with her mother turned out to be a gift for me.

Harriet Brown is the author of "Brave Girl Eating: A Family's Struggle with Anorexia," being published next week.

Sunday Services:

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

Laying on of Hands – second Sunday of each month

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