



The Floister
Parish Newsletter of
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
October 2010

*We welcome Fr. Kevin Fisher and family
to Saint Mary's Church.*

Dear Friends,

I am delighted and honored to be among you as your 16th rector. I look forward to getting to know you in the months and years ahead. Together we as a community will offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, serve our greater community in the name of Christ, and grow in faith and love in accordance with our Lord God's will for us.

We come to join you as something of a tribe. We are a very close family, and I hope you will also embrace and come to love my wife, Jane, our daughter and son-in-law, Etolia and Rene Torres, and my three-year-old granddaughter, Savanna Leigh. (One advantage to being a tribe is that we do boost attendance numbers!)

You as a parish have been in transition for a few years, and that transition will continue for a while yet. Realistically, it will take six months to a year for us to 'gel' as a community together. Our Lord will be present with us during that transition and, through the comfort of the Holy Spirit, we will be led to become a new people of God – a community that honors and cherishes our traditions and history, while being shaped by the Spirit to continue into our future.

During this continuing time of transition, a major part of my ministry is to listen to you, to learn about St. Mary's and Staten Island, to help us discern our ministries together, and to assist in setting achievable goals. My own understanding of my role is similar to that of a 'coach' in providing leadership, training, and support, while guiding the community toward a shared vision. I invite you to take part in forming me as your rector by praying for me and my family, sharing your faith and your hopes for St. Mary's, and by telling me about life on Staten Island.

Toward that end, on October 10th there will be a sign-up schedule for individual pastoral visits. This is entirely optional, but I hope in the first few months to meet personally with as many of you as possible. I intend this to be an informal, low-key visit of 30 minutes to an hour at a place of your choice: in your home, at your workplace, at church, at a coffee shop. If you wish, I invite you to join me for a walk and a talk. The purpose is simply to get better acquainted at a personal level. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and find a time on the schedule that is convenient for you.

Together, we are a people of God continuing a pilgrimage to the New Jerusalem. As we walk the pilgrim trail and hear the call of our Lord, I pray that we may be guided by the words of Mary:

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1. 38).

All peace and good,

Kevin+

Vestry Notes

The Reverend Wm. Kevin Fisher, 16th Rector of Saint Mary's Church, begins his ministry with us on October 1. We welcome Fr. Kevin, his wife Jane, Etolia, Rene and Savanna to our parish family. A coffee and cake reception will follow both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:00 a.m. services on Sunday, October 3rd giving everyone an opportunity to meet Fr. Kevin and family. Please join us in the Parish House following each service.

We thank Fr. John Stubbs for his continued love and support of our parish during this interim period. He and Barbara are true friends to Saint Mary's and we wish them much happiness.

SAFE CHURCH WORKSHOP

The vestry encourages anyone who is interested in working with children at our parish (Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, acolytes, youth group or youth choir, etc.) to attend the Safe Church Workshop "Safeguarding God's Children on Saturday, October 2 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Christ Church, New Brighton. To register please call Cathy Romano in the Christ Church office, 718-727-6100 or email her at