

# CROSS CURRENTS

## Saint Mary's



Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in the Village of Barnstable, MA 02630

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www.stmarys-church.org

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## DEAR FRIENDS,

3 Pentecost: 6/25/2006

It was an unprecedented action. A woman elected to assume the primacy that only men had held before. It was controversial, it was radical, and it was widely resisted. Bishops considered it heretical. Political leaders deemed it an affront. And the common people didn't know what to think, for all of the negative publicity. Yes, indeed, the birth of the Anglican Church with the elevation of Elizabeth I as Queen of England in 1549 was truly a revolutionary act, and I dare say, nothing in the church has ever been quite the same.

I begin with this little historical factoid, because you all have been hearing a lot about the American Episcopal Church these days. The media has been abuzz with stories, stories about schism and conflict, post mortems full of gloom and doom. The Episcopal Church has been vilified, lampooned, and dismissed so rigorously and often by the Fourth Estate that you would think by now it would just give up the Ghost and fade away. But the media for the most part has no interest in history or precedent. What happened 4 centuries ago is not front page news.

So as commentator Paul Harvey likes to say, and now, for the rest of the story. A version, mind you, you won't be reading in the Globe or hear on Fox News or CNN. For I return to you from our General Convention in Columbus to tell you that news of the death of the Episcopal Church is wildly premature. In fact, the way I see it and have experienced it in the context of our triennial gathering, the Episcopal Church is very much alive and well.

When I arrived in Columbus a week ago Friday, however, I was not so sure. The mood was edgy and anxious. Everyone I spoke to seemed subdued, circumspect, even pessimistic. Hanging over everyone's head was the Windsor Report, and the threat that the rest of the Anglican Communion would expel the Episcopal Church if it did not fully and unambiguously accept its recommendations.

This was my first convention. It has taken me 25 years in ordained ministry to get to one of these extravaganzas. When my longtime friend Jim Diamond, Dean of the Cathedral in Cincinnati suggested we go together this year, I jumped at the opportunity. Jim sponsored me for ordination back in 1981, he was the celebrant at our



Reverend Stephen Smith

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Welcome to the Summer edition of the St. Mary's Newsletter. This edition of the newsletter covers the months of July and August. You will find a complete calendar of church happenings on pages 6-9. You will note a few items that are missing in this issue including Birthdays & Anniversaries. We will be bringing this popular feature back in the Fall. As we continue to develop the newsletter your input is increasingly more valuable. Our newsletter will strive to connect the congregation through stories, articles and updates. If you have comments or suggestions please feel free to contact us at [stmarysnewsletter@comcast.net](mailto:stmarysnewsletter@comcast.net).

Thank you, The Communications Task Force & Newsletter Editorial Board

marriage, he preached at my ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood. Who better, I thought, to shepherd me through this gargantuan family reunion?

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church is the largest of its kind, only superseded in this country in size by the Democratic National Convention. Eight thousand bishops, deputies, visitors, and observers from across the globe gathered together for nine days in conversation and debate, to legislate and elect. There were caucuses and special hearings, luncheons and liturgies, exhibitions and celebrations.

There were Episcopalians of every stripe and color. Buttoned down preppies and Midwestern farmers and laid back California surfer types, bishops in Berettas and bishops in shorts, raucous teenagers and venerable senior citizens, blacks, Latinos, Asians, native Americans, Africans, Brazilians, Maoris, Chinese, Indians, and a host of others; there were gays and straights, men and women, liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans, cheek by jowl, under one roof, actually talking to each other, even for the most part getting along.

At one moment, I ran into an old classmate from seminary I haven't seen in two decades. The next moment, we stopped to speak with Gene Robinson, jet-lagged but jubilant after his interview on Larry King the night before. At another, we listen to an Army chaplain just back from his third tour in Iraq. At another, it is the Bishop of Tanzania who regales us with news of his church back home. And so it goes, like a stream of consciousness, bringing me back through all the years, all the experiences that have formed me as an Episcopalian; reminding me of all the reasons I was drawn to this communion in the first place, and why I love it so, even now, especially now.

A week ago, we are sitting in the gallery of the house of deputies. The air seems heavy in the cavernous room as we wait news of the bishop's selection of a new presiding bishop. The bishops are meeting in closed session a couple miles away at Trinity Church where, earlier that morning, we had been at Eucharist. They are now in the third ballot. All signs point to one or two of the bishops from Southern dioceses being selected. Hours pass. Masses of people drift in and out of the hall, almost nonchalant. Not one of us expecting what is to come.

And then the President of the House of Deputies announces an election. Even as the name comes over the p.a. system, it seems a foregone conclusion. Until the words register: The Rt. Rev. Katherine Jefferts Shiori.

At once, 8000 people collectively gasp. To me, it feels like one of David Ortiz' walk off home-runs; but now there are tears, first in the women all around me, and then, I can see it welling up in the eyes of the men. I feel the tears in my own eyes. The emotion is palpable and electric. The dark mood lifts. Something new, unprecedented has happened. In a world of predictability, the unpredictable has once again taken us by complete surprise.

The Windsor Report did not get eclipsed in that single moment, those who love Gene Robinson and those who hate him did not bury the hatchet, ancient enmities still stubbornly persist in this wild, crazy communion we call the Episcopal Church. The challenges are still with us, the risks and perils of living faithfully as Christians have not diminished because a woman now leads us as a church.

But for one brief moment all of us together sensed the animating Spirit of the Living God moving, and a small fissure opened in our thick calcified soul. For one shining moment we, the gathered church, in my mind, were exactly what we are meant to be.

As I exited the convention hall a week ago, I looked up and there in front of me was Barbara Harris. What a blessing, I thought, as we high fived each other, to have been there in 1989 when she became the first woman to be elected a bishop in the church. What a blessing it is 16 years later, to be present when Katherine Shiori became our first primate.

My experience in Columbus seems punctuated by these words uttered first in a different time by the Apostle Paul: "It is the love of Christ that urges us on...for those of us in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away, everything has become new!" Being faithful, being the church, was tough in the time of the Paul. It was tough for the Christians in Corinth to be a small, fledgling community of faith in the midst of so many sweeping changes and challenges and conflicts and forces. There was so much then, as this is so much now, that conspires to make us give in to our worst fears, and cling to our old ways.

But I dare say, God is not finished with us as the Episcopal Church. The Spirit still moves in and through us. The love of Christ is urging us on. And, a new creation in us is waiting to be born.



## NOTE FROM KRIS

Anyone who has seen *The DaVinci Code* or read the book knows that one of the main characters (played by Tom Hanks) is a Harvard “professor of religious symbology.” Although this character spins some fascinating stories explaining the hidden signs and symbols found in art and scripture, there is no academic field known as “symbology.” Perhaps the closest thing in reality is the field of semiotics, the study of signs, especially how signs convey meaning and how that meaning is understood.

As Episcopalians we employ signs in many ways to deepen our experience in worship—in the vestments we wear, in the way we decorate the church, in the words and gestures we use in our liturgy. Unlike the “symbology” in *The DaVinci Code*, the signs we use are not meant to be secret or mysterious but rather to set a context, to articulate something about what is happening that is beyond words. At times, though, our signs lose value because their meaning is unclear or overlooked.

Color is one of the signs we use; we bring color into play in the vestments and altar hangings and we vary the color with the seasons of the church year. Over time, we make deep associations between the colors and the themes of the seasons: white on Christmas and Easter evokes the joy of those celebrations; purple during Lent connotes the darkness of those days of penitence and preparation. These associations come from more than our experience in church; they also are linked to the meanings these colors convey in other settings. To use a semiotic term, the colors have sign value that is related both to their connotations in the world and their use in religious settings.

We have just moved into the season of Pentecost. The color for this season is green, and ironically perhaps, the liturgical color used most often (because Pentecost is the longest season) is the one that seems to most lacking in meaning. So how does green set a liturgical context for the season of Pentecost? Green is associated with the natural environment, and with growth and health and wholeness. For us, the season of Pentecost arrives in late spring or early summer, so the “greening” of the church correlates with the greening up of the world outside, with the beginnings of new growth, and the promise of harvests to come. Often it’s a more relaxed time when we go about the business of daily living a little more freely than usual.

Similarly in the church year, the season of Pentecost is a time of “just being.” The readings we hear during this season deal with learning about and growing in Christ in our daily lives. Although we may think of this season as “ordinary time”, if we take it seriously as a time for growing with Christ, it can become anything but ordinary. It can be a time of ripening our faith, of renewal in our relationship with God, a time of considering what the fruits of the harvest of that relationship might be.

May this time of Pentecost be a time of growing towards wholeness for each of us.

Blessings,  
*Krista*

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## VESTRY MEETING NOTES, JUNE 13

Let’s Talk Box asked us to consider a plaque in the church honoring WWII vets. We agreed to take this up at our next meeting and after researching what has been done to date. The Communications Task Force reported on the development of editorial objectives for Cross Currents, and how it might compliment but not duplicate the weekly bulletins. The auditor’s and treasurer’s reports were accepted. Potluck suppers in shepherd groups are underway. Buildings and Grounds is anticipating a restructuring to reflect their two areas of endeavor: day-to-day operations and big picture property management including master planning and facilities use. May minutes are posted on the undercroft bulletin board.





## MUSIC AT ST. MARY'S

### A NOTE FROM JIM ARMSTRONG

When David Allen brought me out of retirement in 2000 to become your Director of Music, I imagined that I would probably serve about a five-year term in a highly regarded but well-settled parish. Little did I know then that David was approaching his own retirement, or that the Episcopal Church (including St. Mary's) was about to enter a period of exciting, even tumultuous change! Six years and eight priests later (David, Tuck, Jay, Barbara, Jack, Bill, Steve, and Kris), this seems like the right time to try retirement once again. And so I'll be relinquishing the organ bench at the end of the summer.

I have to say that I have very mixed feelings about this decision. On the one hand, the parish is entering a period of new growth that promises to offer wonderful new opportunities for music-making. In Steve and Kris we have a splendid clergy team, lay leadership is strong and getting stronger, and there's an unmistakable buzz of new energy in the parish. But on the other hand, Janet and I have scattered children and grandchildren whom we want to visit more often, and new travel adventures tempt us while we're still able to enjoy them fully.

People have asked me about my specific plans for the future. When I was recently chatting with David Angelica about this very subject, David gave me a piece of advice that I'm trying to take to heart: "Don't spend too much time talking to God about the future; leave space for God to talk to you." I'm not giving up music-making, and Janet and I aren't planning to move away from the Cape, at least not now (although the kids hint frequently that California is a nice place to live). Also, St. Mary's is our spiritual home, and the home of so many dear friends. So don't expect us to drop off the face of the earth on September 1<sup>st</sup>!

I'm sure that as retirement time draws closer I'll have much more to say, particularly about all the colleagues and parishioners who have given such strong support and the many singers with whom I've been privileged to make music. Every choir rehearsal ends with the Royal School of Church Music's Chorister's Prayer, which sums up everything that a church musician tries to do: "Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

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## MATTINS AT ST. MARY'S

A special service of Mattins (the English name for Morning Prayer on Sunday) will be sung at St. Mary's on Sunday, July 30, at 10:00 a.m., with all the music provided by our special weekend guests, the Choir of Exeter Cathedral in England. A festive reception will follow the service.

The Cathedral Choir consists of the Choristers (boys and girls) and the Gentlemen of the Choir (Lay Vicars and Choral Scholars from Exeter University). The Choristers, all pupils at the Cathedral School, rehearse every weekday morning and afternoon except Wednesday. They are joined by the Gentlemen for the afternoon practices and for two rehearsals on Saturday. The Cathedral Choir provides the bulk of the music at the Cathedral's principal services, including Sunday Eucharist, Mattins, and Evensong; weekday Evensong; and afternoon Eucharist on feast days. The Choir is a professional body with many recording, broadcasting, and concert engagements, including periodic overseas tours. The only New England appearances on their 2006 American Tour are on Cape Cod and in Newport, RI.

At St. Mary's we will entertain the girl Choristers and half of the Gentlemen, directed by Stephen Tanner and accompanied by Paul Morgan, Cathedral Organist, performing music by Mathias, Mozart, Britten, Haydn, and Tanner. The Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Rev. Jonathan Meyrick, will be our guest preacher. On that same morning, the other half of the Choir will be providing music for a sung Eucharist at Holy Spirit, Orleans. The full Choir will be heard in concert on Friday, July 28, at Holy Spirit, and on Saturday, July 29, at Corpus Christi, Sandwich (two different programs, both at 7:30 p.m.). Concert tickets @ \$20 each may be ordered by calling Norman Thornton (508-362-2801) or through Jim Armstrong at the parish office (508-362-3977).

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday July 30, 2006 11:15am First Lutheran Church, Rte. 6A West Barnstable

Please join Youth from First Lutheran, St. Mary's and West Parish to decorate for VBS starting this week at First Lutheran. ?'s contact Connie Sullivan.

Monday July 31- Friday August 4, 2006 5:30 - 8:00pm (Dinner at 5:00pm) First Lutheran Church, Rte. 6A West Barnstable

Youth from all three churches will be participating in the drama portion of VBS. If you have the acting bug or want to help out in any way, please contact Connie Sullivan to arrange for transportation or to find out more.

## JOURNEY TO ADULthood

Thank you to all who attended our two day J2A training in July and a very special thank you to Judy Lynch who opened her home to the trainer, Wendie Roberts from the Diocese of Los Angeles. It was very gracious of Judy and the Youth Program has benefitted tremendously from her hospitality. Thank you to Pete Gouger for attending part of both trainings, for sharing the wisdom of his rich years and for being a willing student as well. Thank you to Jason Raineri, Amy Crocker, Brian Sullivan, Barbara Hersey and Cathy Morris for being willing to volunteer their time and effort to this new program. We were able to host, at our training, the rector of Christ Church in Plymouth, Fr. Ted Cole and one of his youth leaders, Bill Finn, a recently retired high school science teacher (for 31 years). Their church is also starting the same program and we will all benefit from the connections that we have made.

Keep you eyes peeled for our fall car wash fundraiser. And be on the lookout for sign-ups for how you can become involved...we will need



## *Journey to Adulthood con't*

many hands to make light work of this transition. We will need people to meet with Youth to share their expertise in the various missions of St. Mary's and/or their professional field. We can always use extra hands to help organize one-time events or pilgrimages, ceremonies, meals. We can use people willing to help with transportation. And if you would be willing to host a movie night at your home, a pool party?? Extra chaperones. And especially, to brainstorm fundraising ideas and most importantly, to pray for us and our Youth on their Journey to Adulthood.

If you are interested in learning more about the program and were unable to attend the training, there are brochures in the track rack outside the Church offices as well as an informational sheet on the Youth bulletin board in the sunroom.

## SHEPHERD PROGRAM

Our 330 active parish families live throughout the Cape from Buzzard's Bay to Brewster. To develop a sense of church family and support within the setting of neighborhood areas, St. Mary's has long relied on the shepherd program. Chaired by Linda Hutton and Connie Phillips, 23 shepherd groups range in size from seven to twenty two families. Shepherds seek to know the families in their flock, and help them to know each other so they may care for each other in time of crisis, illness or pastoral need. Shepherds help the clergy to know the needs of our far flung parishioners; and they hope you will use the shepherd voice mail box (accessible the Church's phone) to advise them of situations that warrant attention.

Currently the shepherds are organizing potluck suppers for each area. They are also seeking shepherds for several neighborhoods in Barnstable, Sandwich, Dennis, Yarmouth Port, Hyannis, Brewster and the West/South Dennis area. If you'd like to get to know more people from St. Mary's in your town, and be part of St. Mary's community network, please volunteer!

Call Connie Phillips or Linda Hutton to learn how you can help.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2	3	4	
8:00a & 10:00a Holy Eucharist	9:00a Miracle Kitchen Cooking	Independence Day Office Closed	10:00a-11:00a E rist & Healing S
9	10	11	
8:00a-9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00a-11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:00a-12:00pM Outreach Commit- tee Meeting 11:15a-12:30p VBS Meeting, First Lutheran		3:00p-4:00p Finance & Budget Committee :00p-9:00p Vestry Meeting	10:00a-11:00a E rist & Healing
16	17	18	
8:00a-9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00a-11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II	9:00a-11:30a Miracle Kitchen Cooking		10:00a-11:00a E rist & Healing S
23	24	25	
8:00a-9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00a-11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II 8:00a Holy Eucharist, 10:00a Daily Morning Prayer with the Exeter Cathedral Men's Choir 11:00a VBS Meeting, First Lutheran		10:30a-12:00 Prayer Group 7:00p-8:30p Evangelism Committee Meeting	10:00a-11:00a E rist & Healing S
30	31		

# 2006

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00p-6:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5 Holy Eucharist Service	6 7:30aM-9:00a Holy Eucharist & Breakfast Group 5:30p-6:30p Contemplative Prayer, Holy Spirit, Orleans 7:00p-9:00p AA Meeting, St. James Room	7 6:00p-9:00p Youth Group Parent's Meeting	8 9:00a-5:00p J2A Leader's Training 5:00p-6:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II
12 Holy Eucharist Service	13 7:30a-9:00a Holy Eucharist & Breakfast Group 7:00p-9:00p AA Meeting, St. James Rm.	14	15 5:00p-6:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II
19 Holy Eucharist Service	20 7:30a-9:00a Holy Eucharist & Breakfast Group 7:00p-9:00p AA meeting	21 10:30a-12:00p Altar Guild Meeting	22 3:30p-4:30p Hill Wedding 5:00p-6:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II
26 Holy Eucharist Service	27 Exeter Choir Arriving 7:30a-9:00a Holy Eucharist & Breakfast Group 9:00a Warden's Meeting 7:00p AA Meeting	28 Exeter Choir performing at Holy Spirit, Orleans	29 Exeter Choir performing at Corpus Christi, E. Sandwich 5:00p Holy Eucharist

# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		<p>7:30p–10:00p Buildings Grounds &amp; Gardens</p>	<p>1 10:00a–11:00a Ho &amp; Healing Servic 3:30p–4:30p Euch Heatherwood</p>
<p>6 8:00a–9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00a–11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>7 11:30a–1:00p ECW Board Meeting</p>	<p>8 3:00p–4:00p Finance &amp; Budget Committee</p>	<p>10:00a–11:00a Ho rist &amp; Healing Se 5:30p–6:30p Spiri tion Committee</p>
<p>13 8:00a–9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00a–11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:00a–12:00p Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30p–7:00p Youth Group</p>	<p>14 9:00a–11:30a Miracle Kitchen Cooking</p>	<p>15 7:00a Tuesday Men’s Group 10:00a Prayer Group 3:00p Finance &amp; Budget Review 7:00p Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>10:00a–11:00a E rist &amp; Healing 7:00p–9:00p Ves</p>
<p>20 8:00a–9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00a–11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>10:00a–11:00 Ho &amp; Healing Servi</p>
<p>27 8:00a–9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00a–11:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>28 9:00a Miracle Kitchen Cooking</p>	<p>29</p>	

# 2006

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>Holy Eucharist Eucharist at</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30a-9:00a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast Group 5:30p-6:30p Contemplative Prayer - Holy Spirit, Orleans</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30a-9:30a Liturgy Committee Meeting 5:00p-6:00p Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Holy Eucha- Service tual Forma-</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30a-9:00a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast Group</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3:30p-4:30p E. Miller Wedding 5:00p-6:00p Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Holy Eucha- Service stry Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30a-9:00a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30a-12:00p Altar Guild Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00p-1:00p Grammaticus Wedding 5:00p-6:00p Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Holy Eucharist Service</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30a-9:00a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast Group</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:00p-6:00p Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast Group</p>		

## TELLING OUR STORIES: BEA MAGRUDER

Written by Tom Fahey

When I asked Bea Magruder to share about her life for Cross Currents she said she had never been a submariner. I was puzzled by her response. "Well both Warne Gooch and Don Mehlhop (previous subjects) had been submariners in World War II," she said. Then she laughed. "But I have a son who was a submariner." Having established her credentials (and her sense of humor) Bea invited me to join her for tea and conversation at her home on Indian Trail.

I was enjoying the view from her living room overlooking Barnstable Harbor. Through the mist I could see the lighthouse out on Sandy Neck. "We gave the land along the shore to the Massachusetts Audubon Society," Bea explained as she sat down. I took a seat across from her and Sophie her Tibetan terrier made herself comfortable in the cushioned chair in the corner. "My husband never would have allowed that," Bea said. "But Sophie is my companion day and night."

Beatrice Hardcastle Lowell Magruder grew up on Beacon Hill in Boston. "We walked to church through the public gardens until we came to the Ritz ... if I was with Mother we walked straight ahead to the Arlington Street Unitarian Church. But if I was with Father we'd go to the right to Emmanuel Church." She recalled ice-skating on the Swan Pond in the public gardens with her sisters, Christina and Frances. "When my toes got numb Mother told me to kneel on the bench to get the blood into my toes. But it never worked."

Summers were spent on Cape Cod at her grandfather's farm. In 1890 Francis Tiffany Bowles, a retired Admiral and shipbuilder, purchased 100 acres in Barnstable. "He had a barn and a farmhouse, three pigs, four cows and two horses, Jim and Jerry. And chickens — lots of chickens!"

Bea remembered her grandfather as a formidable man who "had beetling eyebrows and ran a tight ship. He was devoted to my mother who was his only daughter. When he died and my grandmother died this all came to my mother and her three daughters. It was pastoral then. We explored the woods. We had a boat house and a float that we would swim to." Bea pointed to a very small cottage outside the window. "That was our playhouse when I was three." Today Bea and her sisters and other members of the extended family live on the original land that has been passed down through the generations.

Bea has a twinkle in her blue eyes and a mischievous laugh and she speaks with a distinctive patrician cadence that she concedes isn't heard too often anymore. Although her life involved country day schools, a governess, and a summer on the Riviera, she is anything but snooty. I was surprised to hear that Bea had always made her own clothing. "I made every stitch of clothing I wore," she said proudly. "Even when we moved in society in Wilmington I wore gowns I made myself. I saw sewing as a puzzle to solve, how to fit it together."

Bea's intellect and liveliness took us over many subjects: the Great Depression, World War II, family history, Unitarianism, Cape Cod, painting, and literature (she's currently reading "The Places In Between" and just finished Bryson's "A Short History of Nearly Everything"). Naturally we talked about St. Mary's. "The eleven o'clock service had the really old people who couldn't get themselves organized to make the nine." She sympathized with our new Assistant Rector trying to deliver a sermon over the cries of a baby. "Kris had to soldier through and rise above it didn't she?" Then she noted that a certain retired rector would never have put up with the competition.

Bea has had a lifelong association with St. Mary's. Her father Alfred Lowell was Junior Warden back when it was a summer-only church. When she moved to Barnstable full time in 1983 she found many ways to contribute her services. After being "roped into the Garden Committee," Bea went to work with characteristic thoroughness — even studying gardens while in Scotland. Often with a little dog at her side Bea planted hundreds of colorful annuals — petunias, marigolds, shastas, echinacea, and phlox. "I wanted to have a theme and make it pretty." For many years she also volunteered for the Miracle Kitchen. "I've earned my brownie points," she said.

I asked her about her views on the current controversies in the Episcopal Church. "I'm not fighting anyone. They've all been wonderful. We're so lucky at St. Mary's. There's enough chewing matter, enough for

even my daughter Sarah to think about. And she doesn't suffer fools gladly." "A chip off the old block maybe?" I asked. "No," she answered, "because I suffer them a little gladly." We both laughed.

"Mostly though – I love the friendliness of the congregation," Bea continued. "They're warm, hospitable, welcoming. It's not just the liturgy or the music, it's that everybody is so nice. You feel part of a Christian community."

She has also experienced the church as a source of solace. Thirteen years ago her husband of fifty-seven years Burns Magruder died after a game of tennis. As she shared her memories with me her cheeks flushed with emotion. "The first one I called was David Allen. He was wonderful. He came right over. St. Mary's was very sustaining and helpful – they all rallied round."

Bea has met with the Prayer Group on Tuesday mornings for twenty-three years to review who needs prayers and visitations. "We've had as many as 13, 14 people. Now we have a group of four. We're falling by the wayside." She's also active in the new Book Group.

Last year ago Bea broke her hip so she now gets around with a walker. She is grateful for the support and companionship of her live-in aides, Nelly and Ephraim Gathuma, who accompany her to Sunday service and have become part of our community.

We talked about the recent bequest from Mrs. Deal. "I hope we use it for something more than just a roof," said Bea. "I'd like to see it go into an endowment that will give a good return. So we can do something substantive for the community."

And what did she think her legacy would be? "I hope I would have left a way of living that makes you think of the other person. Leave things a little better than when you found them." I thought of her children who have certainly carried on that ethic. Sam (the submariner) served in the US Navy; Sarah assisted Vietnamese refugees and villagers in Burkina Faso; Blue was one of the founders of the environmental organization, Earthwatch Institute. Then Bea added: "Think of other people before you."

And who's the person she most admires? "Shackleton," she answered, "going across that open sea to South Georgia Island. He's definitely one of my heroes."

## A LETTER OF THANKS FROM MELISSA ALLEN

Friends of mine who have changed jobs in the corporate world recount a last day replete with security guard escorting them from their workplace. Imagine their disbelief as I warmly recall my final day at St. Mary's. I had two escorts, Barbara Hersey & Jim Cranitch, who stayed late in the day simply so I would not be alone as I locked the doors one final time. My experience at St. Mary's was so unique.

Betsy, Barbara, Connie, Jim Cranitch, Jon Ferguson, Bob Zins and Jim Armstrong, my co-workers and friends, what a pleasure it was to work with you!! Steve and Kris— our talented clergy— your passion and deep spirituality inspired me. It is a true source of grace that God has called you to St. Mary's. Helen Keller once said, "The world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of it's heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker." My thanks to the Wardens, Vestry, committee chairs, committee members and volunteers with whom I had the privilege of working alongside. Your honest and faithful work moves St. Mary's Church ever closer to God's vision for this vibrant community of faith.

Thank you all for the lovely reception given on April 23rd. What a gift Steve's tribute and proclamation during the 10:00 A.M. was. It was so wonderfully crafted. As you remember, this was the Sunday after Easter— only a parish administrator can appreciate how much this means in the days following Lent, Holy Week and Easter. How blessed we are to have such a wellspring of ministry and creativity at the helm. I will treasure the memories of that day and my years working at St. Mary's.

All of your well-wishing has worked! I am truly enjoying my new endeavor as Sous Chef at Blue Moon Bistro. Through your generosity, I have purchased many new kitchen tools which I use in the daily work of preparation. Each is a meaningful reminder of our continuing Christian work of preparing, and of dear St. Mary's, my spiritual home.

*Melissa Allen*



Mission Statement

Saint Mary's is a community of faith striving to live intentionally as the Body of Christ in the world. We express our faith through worship, spiritual formation, care for others, and responsible stewardship of all our resources.

- We base our worship on the richness and diversity of Anglican liturgy and music.
- We provide opportunities and resources to guide the spiritual development of our multigenerational congregation.
- We reach out to help fulfill the material needs of those in our local community and beyond.
- We invite everyone to participate in the life of our community through sharing their time, talents, and tangible resources.



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