

CROSS CURRENTS

Saint Mary's



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

508-362-3977

www.stmarys-church.org

Volume xx Number 9

September 2006

DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope this finds you relaxed and renewed from your summer holidays. Summer is a wonderful season on the Cape, but I know that I not alone when I say, it is the off season that is truly enjoyable! We at St. Mary's are looking forward to a new year. We are welcoming a new staff, starting a new music program, going on our first retreat together, and that's only in the month of September.

Over the past several months, the Vestry has been hard at work in discernment of the best use of Virginia Deal's gift to our parish. Clearly, there is strong consensus within the vestry and the parish to use this bequest to strengthen our ministry and mission at St. Mary's. With this in mind, I have proposed to the Vestry that we dedicate this bequest in two ways: first, to provide a legacy fund for the long term (as opposed to day to day operations which are funded through the operating budget)) care and maintenance of our buildings and gardens, and second, to provide a capital fund to support and expand our outreach as a parish. When the proceeds of the Deal estate become fully available to us in these next few months, the major portion of the fund will be dedicated to our legacy fund for our building and grounds, and an additional portion will fund our outreach efforts.

It is important to note that we will use the money in the bequest as a capital fund. It will be invested and we will spend only the income from those investments. The fund itself (capital) will not be spent. It will remain intact so that it will generate income for the long term capital needs of our church and gardens in perpetuity.

Two new initiatives in the parish are underway to support this wonderful legacy. First, we are developing a Planned Giving program, led by Linda Gadkowski. For those who wish to do so, this will assist members and friends of our parish to include St. Mary's in their estate planning. Second, we are developing our outreach program, with a new task force working under the leadership of Lisa Barr.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to develop our stewardship program to support our operational budget. Sharon Donegan and her committee have done yeoman's work to make stewardship a true emblem of our faith as individuals and as a community. I anticipate a day in the not too distant future when we will be able to support (delete fully) our operational budget completely through our pledging.

Ginny Deal's generosity continues to be a marvel to behold, a conduit of God's grace, and a true inspiration for us all. I hope and pray we will seize this moment together to respond to God's movement in our community of faith, so that we will become all that God intends for us to be and do.



Reverend Stephen Smith

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Faithfully,
Steve+



NOTE FROM KRIS

As I write this, it is one of the hottest days of the summer, and I can't quite believe that in just a few short weeks we will be gearing up for our fall schedule of activities. As you will see elsewhere in this issue, we have lots to look forward to. Our fall activities will kick off with a Ministry Fair during coffee hour on September 10. This Ministry Fair will give parishioners an opportunity to learn more about all the many and varied activities that take place at Saint Mary's, as well as a chance to become part of a new group or ministry. Registration for Church School will take place at the Ministry Fair as well. Church School will begin on September 17, as will our new youth program, Journey to Adulthood (J2A). Connie, Barbara, and I, along with the youth mentors Jason Raineri, Cathy Morris, Brian Sullivan, and Amy Crocker have been working hard this summer to prepare to launch J2A and we're very excited about it.

You will also notice some changes in our Church School schedule. With the advent of our new Community Choir, children will begin attending church with their parents one Sunday a month, the Sunday that the Community Choir sings. Additionally, children will no longer come upstairs on Morning Prayer Sundays to give them more time to complete their Godly Play activities. We believe that this schedule will both allow families an opportunity to worship together more fully and allow the Church School time to fully take advantage of what Godly Play offers. Of course, on those Sundays that children attend the whole service, the nursery will still be available for children 0-3, and we will have a Children's Chapel available during the Liturgy of the Word for children 4-6 who might have difficulty being in church for the entire service. Stay tuned for more details.

And we can't forget that our First Annual Parish Retreat will take place September 29-October 1. We've had a great response for this retreat, but if you didn't sign up this year, it's not too late to start thinking about joining us next year. We hope this retreat will become a tradition at Saint Mary's, allowing us time away as a parish family not only to worship and learn together but also to relax and play and to experience living as community even for a short time.

With all the activity going on, it's easy to lose sight of what we're really here for. As I must remind myself, God doesn't need all our hurrying and scurrying, God doesn't need all our programs. But we need God. We need God to be present with us, and all the things we do at Saint Mary's are really meant not just to fill our time, but to help us find ways to be more open and receptive to God's presence in our lives. So as we prepare for our fall schedule and all its rich opportunities, may we also remember why we do this, and may our activity become a doorway to God's presence and the grace that it brings to our lives.

Blessings, *Krista*

MINISTRY FAIR AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday September 10

Saint Mary's will welcome everyone back from summer routines with a Ministry Fair and Ice Cream Social during Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 10*. Ever wonder what exactly goes on at Saint Mary's outside of Sunday services, or how to get more involved? This is your opportunity to find out. The Ministry Fair will highlight the work of the many groups and committees that work, often behind the scenes, to keep things running smoothly and to carry out our mission in the world. At the Fair, these groups and committees of the parish will have displays detailing what each group does, as well as 'job descriptions' outlining what group members do. Parishioners are invited to take a look, ask questions, and sign up for activities in which they might be interested in participating. Groups represented include Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, Outreach, Shepherds, Fellowship, Annual Giving, Building, Grounds and Garden, Eucharistic Visitors, ECW, and more. Don't miss this is an opportunity to learn more about the many and varied ministries and activities that take place at Saint Mary's and to get more involved in one or more of these ministries if you are interested.

**Displays will be set up before the 5 pm service on Saturday so that those who attend at 5 and at the 8 am service can also take part.*

TELLING OUR STORIES: MARY FERGUSON

By Patrick Ramage

We meet in the doorway. She has cornered me just as I make my way from the Parish Hall to the parking lot. Her sharp upward glance has an eagle-eye clarity behind her glasses. "I've been looking for you" she says with a smile. In thought, body and speech, Mary Ferguson moves quickly, coupling focused efficiency with unfailing charm, wrapping both in a deft, dry humor. "Would you be one of our stewardship speakers next month?" she asks sweetly. "Yes," I say, powerless to resist her. "Great," she says, moving on, "I'll be in touch with the details." Mary Ferguson has bagged another one, and accomplished yet another assignment on behalf of St. Mary's Church in the Village of Barnstable.

It's been this way for 27 years, since Mary a long-time elementary school teacher, and her husband Ed, freshly retired from G.E., moved to Cape Cod in 1979. "We had vacationed here in the summers and found St. Mary's," Mary recalled as we met in the dining room of her Centerville home on a sunny August morning. "I remember feeling 'this is a warm, comfortable place where I would like to always worship.' We actually bought this land to build on so it would be convenient for us to go to St. Mary's."

A new rector, David Allen, arrived one month after Mary and Ed. "He arrived at our door pretty quickly and asked if I would take charge of the church school. I guess because he had heard." David Allen had done his homework. Prior to relocating to the Cape, Mary had administered a church school program involving 400 children at Grace Church, New Bedford. She had also served as the first female member of the Grace Church Vestry.

Mary West Ferguson was born 89 years ago in New Bedford. Her father, the owner of a plumbing business, had been raised in rural Rhode Island. Her mother was born in England, arriving in the United States with Mary's grandfather when the cotton industry in New Bedford was booming. "My grandfather bought a house, settled in and helped start a church, Mary explains. "So you're a cradle Episcopalian," I tell her, "do you mind that term?" "Doesn't bother me," Mary says brightly. "I've learned not to let much bother me. When you teach 1st grade for 25 years you can't let much bother you."

Mary had a happy childhood in New Bedford with her younger brother Bill. "We were brought up practically in the water there." Mary's mother was active in the church. Her father attended occasionally. One

jarring incident is among her earliest memories. "It was Thanksgiving day the year I was six. My uncle John used to come over from Newport. All the kids piled in his old Ford for a short ride. There was an accident. There were no fatalities, but I was a mess. I had to get thirty-five stitches. We had been hit by a drunken driver on the way to a football game. Some things don't change."

Mary first met Ed Ferguson the summer before they both went to college, she to the University of Massachusetts, he to Colgate. "We were engaged on Pearl Harbor Day," Mary says, "but we decided we were going to go ahead and get married anyway." When the war began, Ed volunteered for a three-year hitch in the Coast Guard and hoped he would not be sent somewhere tropical. His prayers were answered when he was shipped to the Aleutian Islands off Alaska.

Two children completed the Ferguson family. Bill, a chemical engineer involved in medical research, now lives in New Jersey. Janet works for the city of Newton assisting with children with special needs. Ed Ferguson, who served on the St. Mary's buildings and grounds committee, died three years after moving to Cape Cod. In the two and a half decades since, Mary has found her church a continuing source of strength. "I call the members of St. Mary's my Cape family," she says. "And they really are."

Her Cape family has much to thank her for. For almost three decades now, Mary Ferguson has volunteered tirelessly, chairing the education and evangelism committees and serving on countless others. In 1981, she became Junior Warden and in 1983 began three years of service as Senior Warden. "David Allen began a six-month sabbatical just as junior warden Warren Dyson and I took over" recalls Mary. Then Warren, "one of the best men who ever walked on this earth," suddenly died. "It was a challenge," she says. "Luckily, David appointed Sam Anderson as junior warden and assistant rector Charles Morris, (father of current choir member and frequent soloist Cathy Morris) took care of everything with the church services." Mary and Rector Emeritus David Allen remain good friends to this day.

I ask Mary about changes at St. Mary's since she first arrived. "Well," she remembers with a smile, "of course we changed the chancel. The congregation was getting larger and after the renovation we got eight more spaces at the altar rail." Mary quickly locates

continued on pg 4

TELLING OUR STORIES (CONT.)

church photo directories going back to the 1970s and points out the photos showing changes to the design. "I thought we would never get the cross up there," she says with a roll of the eyes. "We had a committee of 16 people, which complicated the thing, because with that many people you're always going to have diverse opinions." It was Mary who first suggested adding the beautiful gold leaf to the red cross. Some years ago, while cleaning out the undercroft, she found the original cross which now adorns the tapestry in the chapel to the right of the altar.

I ask Mary whether she believes the words of the Nicene Creed. "I am not a literalist," she says quickly, "but for the most part I do." I press her to comment on current controversies in the Anglican Communion. "I hate politics with a passion," Mary says. "We pray that we may all be one. Of course heaven knows we're all different. This current hullabaloo . . . well, it makes me sad. But it's not going to affect me or my faith at all."

Mary's faith is sustained through daily prayer, and both faith and prayer are a big part of her life. "Most of the time when I'm praying I'm actually not in church." She mentions the church prayer group and I ask her to tell me about it. "There are six or seven of us. We used to have 14 to 18. Of course half of them have died," she matter-of-factly explains. "A list is prepared by the church office. It is kept completely private. We pray every morning for each of the names on the list. We pray for those in the hospital and for those sick at home. We pray for the departed for one year. We pray for those who mourn. And we pray for those in nursing homes."

I ask Mary if the group members pray for each person on the list individually. "I do it every morning," she says, "and I am sure the others do it too." I ask Mary if prayer has made a difference in her own life. She looks at me with total conviction. "It has been very, very effective. Believe me, prayers are answered. Not always in the way you want, but very, very definitely."

The prayer group meets at the church every other Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. "Kris Lewis leads the group. Sometimes she opens with a prayer and sometimes she doesn't. We don't just pray, we discuss things," including chapters in a book the group is reading. (A recent selection is *Healing in the Landscape of Prayer* by Avery Brooke).

While St. Mary's is central to her life, Mary has a wide range of other interests. She has traveled exten-

sively across the United States and Northern Europe. Trips to Alaska and Scandinavia are among the most memorable. She has been active with the Cape Cod Symphony group and is frequent summer visitor to Tanglewood, where she and a friend and this year attended a rehearsal performance of the Boston Symphony Orchestra led by Maestro Seiji Ozawa. "I thought I was in heaven!"

Her love of music has been with Mary since high school, where she played the piano in the orchestra and the clarinet in the band. I ask her about her favorite classical pieces. "I suppose Symphony Number 2, the Resurrection Symphony, by Mahler. That's M-a-h-l-e-r," she says, cheerfully spelling it out. I smile, thinking of the line Mary attributes to her children: "Mom never got out of first grade!" She has also been an enthusiastic gardener, but now devotes most of her nurturing energies to five grandchildren and two great grandchildren, Josh and Sam, who affectionately call their great-grandmother Gigi.

"We're almost done Mary," I say, realizing we have been talking for more than two hours. "That's good," she says with just the right touch of irony. Before we finish, she shares with me a prayer by Avery Brooke, which seems almost to have been written about Mary and the village church that shares her name.

Oh God we thank you for our friends and all the joys they have brought us. We thank you for the happiness of sharing work and problems and laughter and for the joy of adventuring and learning together. We thank you for the chance to love and be loved by those who know us as we really are.

"I've had a wonderful life," Mary says as our time together comes to a close "and I'm fortunate at 89 to be doing whatever I am doing." I ask Mary if she can boil it all down to a simple statement or lesson. "Be true to what you believe in and follow that. Feel a great sense of gratitude. And it's important to keep a good sense of humor."

Telling Our Stories, a new oral history project, was launched at St. Mary's earlier this year. Informal interviews are conducted on an ongoing basis with longtime members of our parish to capture their perspectives, wisdom and life experiences, including their personal involvement with St. Mary's Church in the Village of Barnstable. Written summaries of these interviews are shared in the monthly issues of Cross Currents, and may at some future date also be published as a stand-alone collection. Questions, comments or suggestions for further development of this unique project are very welcome and may be directed to Patrick Ramage, Chair of the St. Mary's Communications Task Force at 508-362-2052 or forwarded via email to stmarysnewsletter@comcast.net

MUSIC AT ST. MARY'S:

For my first column, I decided to answer a lot of questions about who I am and how I got here, and hope to learn the same from many if not all of you.

I grew up in Attica, New York (yes, where the prison is; and a town with more cows than people) and my only exposure to church was through my piano teacher, who had me sing and play with her at the Baptist Church on occasion. I earned my undergraduate degree at Houghton College, a small evangelical school about an hour from home, and that was where I found my calling to church music (which is a separate story in itself).

When I entered graduate school, I was fortunate enough to become the first music intern to Marilyn Keiser at Trinity Episcopal Church. I worked at learning the service music for Rites I and II and a host of hymns and anthems. My first Holy Week felt like walking the passion first-hand, and my first Easter Vigil, with the declaration of Christ's resurrection at midnight in a blaze of lights and bells and alleluias was a life-changing experience. Everything I learned in the study of liturgy combined with my emotional response told me this denomination was my spiritual home. I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church that spring. The Hymnal 1982 came out as I graduated, and I taught several workshops on its use in my first parish near Charlotte, North Carolina. I also made my Cursillo there, and had my first exposure to what was then called "renewal music". I learned five chords on the guitar, which was about all I needed!

I served two parishes in North Carolina and came north to St. Paul's in Nantucket. My move to the Cape eleven years ago was the first time I chose location over a specific church job, and I found myself in a different denomination for the first time in my career. I tweaked the liturgy as much as possible to resemble ours, and the choir used the Hymnal 1982 as a resource, but the book in the pews was the 1958 Pilgrim Hymnal and communion was only celebrated monthly. I took advantage of the freedom to use a wide range of music, especially drawing on some of my evangelical background. Living 30 miles from church limited my access to the organ and congregation, so my life grew in other ways. I was music director for several community theater shows, developed a private studio of piano, voice, and flute students, and became a player in the network of freelance musicians who perform weddings, funerals, and what-

ever at beaches, backyards, inns and concert venues throughout the Cape. I met my life partner and gained the challenges and blessings of a stepdaughter, as well as two more dogs! I explored using the voice God has blessed me with by developing a solo career on Cape and in the Boston area as a classical singer. I was cantor and organist at the summer chapel for a Roman Catholic parish, and while the songs are of a different genre, the service reminded me of my roots and how I missed the liturgical year and Eucharist-centered worship. From time to time I would play or sing at an Episcopal service, and the beautiful language of the

Book of Common Prayer definitely made me homesick.

When I was called to consider St. Mary's, I found it disconcerting to consider rebalancing my life. I take this step after much prayer and consideration, and in the assurance that this is where God wants me to be. The past decade has provided me with a wealth of experiences as a musician and a Christian, and I look forward to as fruitful a time as we begin our journey together. While I did not officially begin until September 1, August was a challenge, wrapping up duties at one church and "learning the ropes" at another while dealing with the usual summer rush of concerts, weddings, visitors, and squeezing in an occasional visit to the beach! It is both exhilarating and daunting to take on the role of Minister of Music, especially following in the footsteps of someone so capable as Jim Armstrong (and the thought of learning all your names is downright frightening!). I look forward to this new chapter, and I have to say, it's so good to be home again.

COMMUNITY CHOIR:

This fall we'll be trying out a new musical opportunity in the form of a Community Choir. Sometimes called a "family choir", this group is open to all ages and musical experience. You don't have to read music or be concerned that your voice is "good enough"; just be willing to try something new and praise God in song. We envision a weekly rehearsal (time to be determined; probably our biggest challenge!) and offering a musical selection at the Sunday 10:00am service about once a month.

During the Ministry Fair on September 10th I'll be available to talk to anyone interested in the existing Adult Choir, the Community Choir, or any other aspect of Music at St. Mary's!

CROSS CURRENTS

Volume xx Number 9

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3	4	5	
Rev Smith on Vacation 8a - 9a HE, Rite I 10a - 11a HE, Rite II	Labor day - Office Closed Rev Smith on Vacation 9a - 11:30a Miracle Kitchen Cooking	Rev Smith on Vacation	Rev Smith on Vacation 9:30 a - 11a Greens C Holly Fair 10a - 11a HE w/ Hea 3:30 p - 4:30 p Eucha Heatherwood 5p - 9p Parking Lot Tales of Cape Cod 7p - 8:30 p Adult Ch Kirchner Home in F
10	11	12	
Rev Smith on Vacation 8a - 9a HE, Rite I 10a 11a HE, Rite II 10a - 1p Ministry Fair	Rev Smith on Vacation Linda K. Vacation Day	Rev Smith on Vacation 9:15 a - 9:30 a Newsletter Deadline 10:30 a - 12p Prayer Group 3p - 4p Finance & Budget Committee Meeting	Rev Smith on Va 5:30 p - 6:30 p Sp Formation Comm 10a - 11a Holy E with Healing 7p - 8:30 p Adult
17	18	19	
Rev Smith on Vacation 8a - 9a HE, Rite I 9:45 a - 10:45 a First Day of Church School 10a - 11a HE, Rite II 1p - 3p HAC Walk to End Homelessness 5:30 p - 7p J2A	Rev Smith on Vacation 9a - 11:30 a Miracle Kitchen Cooking	Rev Smith on Vacation	Rev Smith on V 10a - 11a Holy E with Healing 12p - 1p Staff Mt 7p - 8:30 p Adult
24	25	26	
8 a- 9a HE, Rite I 10a - 11a Morning Prayer/Rite II 1 a - 11:45a Kick off Rehearsal for Community Choir 11 a- 12 p Outreach Committee Mtg 3p - 5p Parking Lot Reserved for Historical Society 5:30 p - 7p Rite 13 Youth Meeting	Newsletter Mailing	10:30a - 12p Prayer Group	7p - 8:30 p Adult 10 a - 11a Holy with Healing 12:30 p - 2:30 p & Christmas Me 7p - 5a Hospital Night

SEPTEMBER 2006

Monday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Rev Smith on Vacation	2 Rev Smith on Vacation 8:30a - 9:30a Liturgy Committee Mtg 5p - 6p Holy Eucharist
6 ion Committee: ing arist at Reserved oir at Joan Brewster	7 Rev Smith on Vacation 7:30a - 9:00a HE & Break- fast Group 5:30p - 6:30p Contemplative Prayer - HS, Orleans 7:00p Book Group	8 Rev Smith on Vacation	9 Rev Smith on Vacation 10a - 1p Ministry Fair (set up) 9a - 11a Teachers Workshop 5p - 6 pHoly Eucharist
13 vacation piritual nittee Eucharist t Choir	14 Rev Smith on Vacation 7:30 a - 9a Holy Eucharist & Breakfast Group 9:30 a - 1p Cape Cod Hospi- tal Auxillary Meeting 7:30 p - 10p Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting	15 Rev Smith on Vacation 10:30 a - 12p Altar Guild Meeting	16 Rev Smith on Vacation 10a - 4p Days of Hospitality 10a - 12p Acolyte Orientation 5p - 6p Holy Eucharist
20 vacation Eucharist g t Choir	21 Rev Smith on Vacation 7:30 a - 9 a Holy Eucharist & Breakfast Group TBD Deanery Executive Committee, Christ Church Plymouth 7p - 9p Vestry Meeting	22 Rev Smith on Vacation	23 5p- 6p Holy Eucharist 12:30 p - 2p Wardens' & Rectors Meeting
27 t Choir Eucharist Plan Advent eting ity Over	28 7:30 a - 9a Holy Eucharist & Breakfast Group 7p - 8:30 p J2A Meeting	29 Parish Retreat Weekend - Greenfield NH	30 Parish Retreat Weekend - Greenfield NH 9a - 2:30 p Church Women United, St David's Church, S. Yarmouth 5 pm - 6 p Holy Eucharist



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

SEPTEMBER MEETING

A new year begins with our first meeting on Wednesday, September 13th at 11AM.

As in past years, this will be our Salad luncheon, which is always a favorite. If you plan on coming, please watch for the sign up sheet which will also let us know what kind of salad you will bring.

Rear Admiral Harold L. Robinson, Chaplain Corps, will speak on "Ministry in the Age of Terrorism", September 13th at our 11:00 am ECW meeting. Admiral Robinson is Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters and Director of Religious Programs, Marine Force Reserves. After talking to us, Admiral Robinson will be flying to the Horn of Africa to minister to the Marines on duty there. The Jewish Community Center Association has also named Admiral Robinson Director of the Jewish Chaplains Council, which is accredited by the US Government to serve the religious needs of Jewish military personnel, their families, and patients in VA Hospitals.

Rabbi Robinson was spiritual leader of the Cape Cod Synagogue for 21 years until 1998. He served on the board of the Cape and Islands United Way and Chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Cape & Islands Advisory Council. He has a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and a Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Oh. He is an avid sailor and has run in

the last 11 Boston Marathons and several ultra-marathons. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Naval Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, the Fleet Marine Force Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Deployment Ribbon.

In keeping with St. Mary's tradition, we plan to serve a salad lunch after Admiral Robinson's talk. We will have a sign-up sheet in the sunroom. Please join us, and mark your calendars for the 2nd Wednesday of each month for St. Mary's monthly gathering.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are very pleased to welcome Connie VanMaur to our board of directors. She will be co-chair of our program committee. Wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Bunny Thompson, as she recouperates from her hip surgery. Additional new Board members will be announced in next month's issue.

HOLLY FAIR

Hopefully, several of you have been busily working on projects for our annual Holly Fair coming up in early December. More information will be forthcoming, but it is always a big event at St. Mary's.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planned Giving

During the forthcoming autumn season, the aspect of our stewardship that concerns most of us is deciding our financial commitment for the following year. After a time of evaluation, reflection, and prayer, we make our pledge to strengthen the ministry of Saint Mary's and the Episcopal Church.

Our Finance and Budget Committee relies heavily on those pledges when formulating each year's operating budget for St. Mary's. Unfulfilled pledges hurt our church. Sadly, that often happens when a parishioner dies and the pledge for the remainder of the year is unpaid.

We suggest that every pledging parishioner insert a sentence in his or her will, or leave a memorandum for the executor or executrix, with instructions that the remainder of any year's pledge to St. Mary's should be completed.

Ministry Fair

Saint Mary's will welcome everyone back from summer routines with a Ministry Fair during Coffee Hour on September 10*. At the fair, groups and committees of the parish will have displays detailing what each group does, as well as 'job descriptions' for prospective members. This is an opportunity to learn more about the many and varied ministries and activities that take place at Saint Mary's and to get more involved in one or more of these ministries if you are interested. Don't miss it!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT)

The Greens Committee

The Greens Committee will be meeting on September 6th at 9:30 a.m. in the St James Room to plan for the upcoming 2006 Holly Fair. We welcome any new members who are interested – as well as new ideas. Please join us for fun and fellowship. Thoughts, ideas please contact Pat Rothermel or Evelyn Mehlhop.

Communications Task Force

The Communications Task Force meets periodically to review the many ways in which we communicate at St. Mary's. There are many key areas that we are reviewing including the newsletter, weekly bulletin, website, bulletin boards and various mailings. If anyone would like to provide feedback on our communication tools please feel free to contact us at stmarysnewsletter@comcast.net or drop a note off at the parish office.

August Vestry Highlights

The vestry is moving ahead to have a veteran's memorial plaque placed in the Memorial Garden.

Discussions on the Deal bequest focussed on the intention that these monies be used to endow two funds, one for the longterm maintenance and improvements to the church and gardens, the other (roughly proportionate to a tithe) for outreach. The intention is to keep the capital in both funds invested in perpetuity and to spend only the income generated by the investments. We also agreed that this income should not be used to fund the operating budget.

The vestry reviewed the new structure of the Building and Grounds Committee, one arm of which will focus on day-to-day-operations headed by Brian Sullivan, and the other headed by Matt Palmer will focus on long term management, planning, and capital projects.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Annelise Ellars	1	Amanda McClenahan	13
Louise Nelson	3	Ian Thompson	13
Noreen Spencer	3	Ellen Archer	15
Jakob Byrne	3	Joanne Gwynne	15
Emily Pinney	3	Jean Fahey	16
Emily Mikoud	3	W. Dennis Steward	17
Linda Langlais	4	Donald Palmer	17
Ross Whalen	4	Benjamin Pinard	17
Graham Ross	4	Theodora Carlaw	18
Joseph Iafrate	5	Jane Wood	19
Matthew Palmer	5	Elisabeth McDonald	20
Paige Strauss	5	Bryan Gagnon	21
Asdis Helgadottir-Hodgson	6	Kristen Beasley	21
Sandra Whalen	6	Dianne McGuire	22
John Whalen	6	Louise Koch	22
Donald Mehlhop	8	Christian Pinney	22
Brittany Enz	8	James Carlaw	23
Meghan McDonald	8	Direk Moyer	23
Jean Stafford	9	Audrey Chesnut	24
Jean Burr	10	Lon Norton	25
Janice Pring	11	Eva Roderick	27
Lyndsay McManus	12	Courtney Harrison	28
Barry Smedley	12	Nicholas Rabideau	28
Caroline Segar	13	Jennifer Ellars	30
Phyllis Bradley	13		

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Louise Nelson	4	Dianne Hayes	15
P. Gordon Nelson, Sr.		John Hayes	
Estelle Trzcinski	5	Dianne McGuire	16
Edmund Trzcinski		Jon Ferguson	
Betty-Ann Wheeler	9	Nancy Aittaniemi	20
Richard Wheeler		David Aittaniemi	
Stacey Harrison	9	Rebecca Monger	22
Matthew Harrison		Dirk Monger	
Joyce Shinn	10	Anne Bowen	24
Jeffery Shinn		William Bowen	
Nancy Fales	11	Theodora Carlaw	25
Russell Fales		Jim Carlaw	
Sandra Whalen	12	Deborah Oney	25
John Whalen		Steve Oney	
Caroline Segar	13	Margery Fallon	29
Joseph Segar		Thomas Fallon	

This month we are pleased to return to the tradition of listing Anniversaries and Birthdays of our parishioners. The Communications Task Force is working with Linda Keewell to ensure that all anniversaries and birthdays are listed correctly. If you see any errors or omissions please contact the newsletter editor at stmarysnewsletter@comcast.net or drop a note off at the parish office.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT FORMATION

Adult Formation comprises all we do here at Saint Mary's that helps to shape our lives as Christians, but most often we think of it in terms of "education." Last year, education opportunities for adults most often occurred in Adult Forums on Sunday mornings at 8:45. These forums covered a wide range of topics, the most popular being "Everything You Wanted to Know about the Episcopal Church."

Plans are being formulated for this year's Adult Formation programs, which will begin in October. Once again Adult Forums will be held on Sunday mornings, but we are currently considering a time switch to after the 10 am service. We also hope to add some opportunities for learning and discussion at other times—midweek or on Saturday evenings. Stay tuned for more information as plans develop.

Coming in October...

Mark your calendar now for a special educational opportunity coming in October. Dr. Deirdre Good, Professor of New Testament at the General Theological Seminary in New York City, will be at Saint Mary's on October 21-22 to talk about two of her most recent projects. Saturday evening, following an all-parish potluck dinner, Dr. Good will talk about her upcoming work, "How the Bible Came to Be." On Sunday, following the 10 am service, she will hold a book signing and discussion of her book *Jesus' Family Values*, to be published by Church Publishing in September. From the publisher's website:

Many people claim to know what Jesus would say or do in the kinds of ethical dilemmas we face today, but applying "traditional" Christian values out of context actually sells Jesus' teaching short. What are Christian family values, Deirdre Good asks, why are there so many interpretations of what Jesus actually taught and said, and which of these biblical values should guide our lives?

Please plan to join us for both events.

YOUTH FORMATION

Dear Saint Mary's

Children, Parents and Parish Friends,

A big thank you goes out to everyone who participated in VBS this year!! We had Sondra Mercandetti, Connie Sullivan, Barbara Hersey, Ardith Call and Dave Edwards, Chris Barron as well as Steve and Kris lending a hand at the Opening Prayer from St. Mary's Church. They were all such wonderful staff joining scores of others for our first United VBS at First Lutheran. The whole group served about 40 children dinner, great stories, games, crafts, and great music! Many thanks to West Parish and First Lutheran for their grace and fun in welcoming St. Mary's to their VBS program. Other events may be planned to get our three churches together again during the year.

We are so excited to start this year together! We're all thinking about getting back into the swing of things at Saint Mary's. We have been working hard on the classrooms this summer preparing for classes.

There is much planned for the coming months and our primary mode of communication will be the Newsletter, parent-teacher letters every two months, and the Sunroom Church School/Youth Bulletin Board. Please feel free to email us at any time, We LOVE Email!!

Finally, what a blessing it has been working with your children; the growing, green, fun, lively, life of any parish! Thank you for what continues to be an amazing opportunity. We are so happy to greet each and every one of you back this fall!

The following is our classroom assignments, calendar items and reminders for the Nursery and Acolytes parents.

*Sincerely and Faithfully,
Barbara and Connie*

CLASS ROOMS ARE AS FOLLOWS;

-4th and 5th grade will meet in the St. Peter Room from 9:45 to 10:35am. This room is located between the Nursery and the Pre School-Kindergarten Classroom.

-1st,2nd and 3rd grade will meet in the St. Andrew Room from 9:45 to 10:35 am.

- Pre-K and Kindergarten will meet in the St. Simon/John Room from 9:45 to 10:35am, same as last year.

Signage is posted on the classroom doors and a Church School map is located on the bulletin board in the Breezeway next to the kitchen.

NURSERY

Any Infants and Children up to age 3 will meet in the St. Jude room Nursery and have a short lesson and craft from 10:10 to 10:35am. The Nursery is a cooperative effort with parent volunteers and other parishioners. Marian Ferguson has offered to help recruit and Volunteer in the Nursery. Please speak with her or Barbara Hersey if you'd like to help out.

ACOLYTES

An Acolyte Orientation and Pizza Lunch is planned for Saturday, September 16th from 10:00 – 12:00. All returning acolytes and anyone in 2nd grade through High School who is interested in becoming an acolyte should plan to attend. Watch for more information..

CALENDAR

September 9th,
Church School Teachers and Parents Godly Play Workshop, 9am to 11 am.

September 10th - Ice Cream Social and Welcome Back Sunday for all children with registration for new children! Classes start the following week.

Sept. 17th
First Day of Church School.

Sept. 17th
J2A (youth in grades 8, 9 and 10*) will have their first meeting from 5:30 – 7:30pm in the parish hall and kitchen. Please sign up to bring food on the Youth bulletin board in the Sunroom. Brian Sullivan and Amy Crocker will be the Youth Mentors for J2A

September 24th
HAC Walk to End Homelessness on Cape Cod is at 1 pm starting on South St. in Hyannis near the Red Cross Building. .

September 24th
Rite 13 (youth in grades 6 and 7) will begin meeting the following Sunday from 5:30 - 7:30pm in the same location. Please sign up to bring food also. Cathy Morris and Jason Rainieri will mentor this age group.

October 1st
No Church School – Parish Retreat Weekend.

October 8th
Feast of St. Francis - Blessing of the Animals.

ABOUT THE J2A PROGRAM *excerpted with permission from curriculum materials.*

RITE 13

The first two years of the program is called RITE 13, a name that comes from a liturgical rite of passage that we celebrate with young people around their 13th birthday. This rite is a way for the entire congregation to celebrate the unique gifts and abilities of its young teens. The two years of Rite 13 focus on recognizing the gifts God has given us, celebrating our creative potential, and learning to interact as a community of faith.

J2A (JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD)

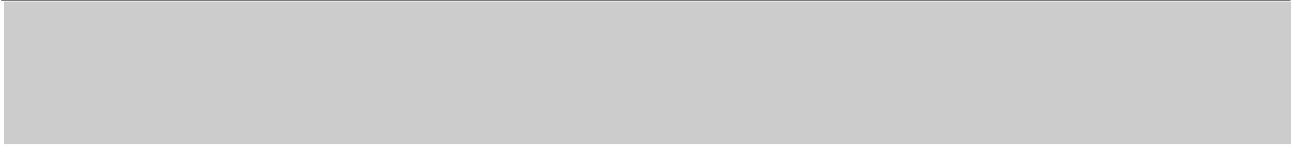
The second segment is J2A, an acronym for JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD. It is a little confusing because it is the same name for the entire program, but the reason for this is that the bulk of the work gets done in these two years, building on the foundation of the Rite 13 experience. During these years, teens learn and practice six basic skills of adulthood: active listening, negotiation, assertion, research & information management, partnership and leadership. The end of the second year of J2A is marked by the group designing and going on a Holy Pilgrimage.

YAC (YOUNG ADULTS IN CHURCH)

The last two years of the Journey to Adulthood program are referred to as YAC, which stands for YOUNG ADULTS IN CHURCH. YAC students are encouraged to accept more adult responsibility and to contribute their time, talent and treasure in ways that support the ongoing work of the church. Teens write a personal credo of beliefs and rely on their trusted group of peers as they explore their faith more deeply and struggle with the details of transitioning from teenager to young adult in today's world.

The Journey to Adulthood experience encourages teen to explore the four areas of Self, Spirituality, Sexuality and Society, and to learn to connect to their faith to all areas of life. It is hoped that this program fosters an environment of wholeness and authenticity and helps teens develop a life-changing relationship with the God who created them.

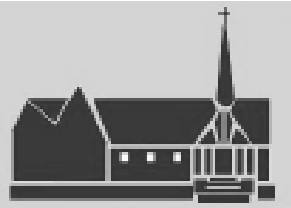
*Connie Sullivan and the Rev. Kris Lewis will be working with youth in grades 11 and 12, who are outside the range of starting J2A, to include them in Diocesan Youth events and help them in their transition to adulthood in the church. We will be contacting you to work out individual programs.



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.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 3055 Main At.
 PO Box 395
 Barnstable Village, MA
 02630-0395

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