

The background is a vibrant stained glass artwork. It features a central panel with a grey dolphin leaping out of stylized, swirling waves in shades of teal and blue. Above the dolphin, there are horizontal bands of blue and white, suggesting a sky or sea surface. The entire scene is framed by a thick black border, with decorative elements like small white flowers and circular patterns in the corners. At the top, a large, stylized cross is integrated into the text.

Saint Mary's

Episcopal Church Barnstable

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2018



JOY FROM SORROW

THE REV. DR. LIBBY GIBSON

*“May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in God, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 15:13*

“Sorrow prepares you for joy. It violently sweeps everything out of your house, so that new joy can find space to enter. It shakes the yellow leaves from the bough of your heart, so that fresh, green leaves can grow in their place. It pulls up the rotten roots, so that new roots hidden beneath have room to grow. Whatever sorrow shakes from your heart, far better things will take their place.” --Rumi

This week, our senior warden Peter Scarafile said to me, “You might not want to go into the sunroom. It looks like a war zone.” And our buildings and grounds chairmen David Munsell sent me a photo with the text message, “Had to remove drywall and install new pressure treated sills in back bathroom hallway due to black mold inside. Yuck!!!” As we move deeper into our building renovation, it feels like the Spirit is sweeping out everything moldy, rotted, unsafe, and unsightly from the church and parish hall as we prepare to build. While every bit of this preparatory work is essential to the future health and integrity of our buildings, it doesn’t make the “sweeping out” any less painful to experience!

And yet, as the Sufi mystic and poet Rumi reminds us, this time of difficulty is preparing us for the joy that is to come. Our Christian faith rests on the sure knowledge that following the sorrow, passion, death, and three-day entombment of Jesus, new life comes forth from the tomb and ripples out through time and space.

My friends, we are still in the darkness of the “three days” in the tomb, and I know this is very painful for many of you. Your church home, a sacred place of rest and renewal, looks like a war zone. You are not able to find peace and solace in a place that has comforted you and your loved ones for many years. Even if you are loving our time at the Olde Colonial Courthouse and excited about the renovation, extended periods of change are exhausting. My words promising the joy to come may bring little comfort.

If you find yourself in a time of darkness due to the turmoil of the renovation or for other reasons personal to you, St. John of the Cross reminds us of this beautiful fact: Jesus is right there with you in the darkness, in the tomb. Jesus endured great suffering and knows how difficult it is to remain faithful and focused on God when we want to beg, “God, make this cup pass from me!”

Whenever you find yourself in a time of spiritual darkness, please turn to Jesus who is right there with you and ask him for help. It is always darkest before the dawn, and my dear ones, I promise that the sunrise will be spectacular.

Libby +



FAMILY MINISTRIES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CATHY ODE, M.ED IN COUNSELING

YOUTH SUNDAYS

Once a month, the children and youth of St. Mary's assist with all aspects of 10 a.m. worship, from greeting worshipers at the door as they arrive to reading the prayers and lessons, in addition to their usual role as acolytes. When children and youth participate, they're living out their call as members of the body of Christ. They also learn valuable lessons about worship and why we do what we do.

On Youth Sundays, our Rector, Libby Gibson, offers a blended sermon, one that touches the hearts of young and old alike. Inviting children and youth forward for the sermon helps kids be fully engaged; we also have "Worship Bags" to help wiggly worshipers get through other parts of the service. Our youthful readers do an excellent job, having clearly prepared well in advance. In a slightly more formal setting than Joy Mass, kids grow accustomed to the rhythm of Rite II worship. It's an experience of reverential, holy worship with all God's children welcomed and included.

Families, please make every effort to come when your child/youth is assigned to assist, and give us plenty of notice when you need to request a swap with another family, so we can avoid scrambling on Sundays mornings! Not only does your child or youth serve St. Mary's in important ways on Youth Sundays, but they also gain valuable experience and knowledge, important elements of a journey of faith.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2018

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Monday. The St. Mary's Christmas Pageant serves as the 4 pm service on Christmas Eve. It's always a joyful, slightly chaotic, but deeply meaningful event. Please invite neighbors, family, and friends.

The Sunday prior, December 23, we'll do a Pageant rehearsal and costume fitting during 10 am worship, so please be sure to attend Kids' Church that day.

Also, we're looking for Jesus! Please contact me ASAP at formation@stmarys-church.org or 508-362-3977 ext 13 if you know of an infant (one day to three months old) whose parents might be willing to share him/her with us on Christmas Eve.



Families

Mark Your Calendar

Homecoming Sunday,
Simple Suppers,
Playground Blessing,
JOY Mass

Nov. 2-4: Parish Retreat at Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center; no kids programs at St. Mary's that day

Nov. 11 10 am YOUTH Sunday at the Old Colonial Courthouse

Nov. 18 9:45 am Kids' Church & lunch for families

Nov. 25 10 am JOY Mass at the Old Colonial Courthouse

Dec. 2 9:45 am Kids' Church & lunch for families

Dec. 9 10 am YOUTH Sunday at the Old Colonial Courthouse

Dec. 16 9:45 am Kids' Church & lunch for families

Dec. 23 9:45 am Kids' Church & PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Dec. 24 4 pm Christmas Pageant; arrive early (details coming soon)

Dec. 30 School break; no kids' programs



Photos courtesy of Cathy Ode



MEET GIGI MITCHELL-VELASCO INTERIM MINISTER OF MUSIC

Hello St. Mary's Family! Hello New Friends!

It is a very exciting time at St. Mary's. It still is, after all, the season of Pentecost until Christ the King in November, and the winds of change brought by the breath of the Holy Spirit are still blowing through. I am honored and grateful to be called and invited to your sacred space as your new Interim Music Minister. I have had a chance to tour the Parish Hall and Sanctuary. (Don't worry – we used hard hats!) I have met the staff and have seen our various offices, got my keys and had a chance to try all the wrong keys in all the wrong locks, arranged the furniture in my own office, and already had fun making music with the choir.

Many thanks to Christy Saling, your very own capable and loving parishioner who has done an exemplary job bidding me welcome and helping to get me organized.

One thing that impressed me about meeting people and hearing some of St. Mary's story is that you are certainly resilient and flexible. This is a gift and a blessing. I have experienced many different iterations as a musician, from professional flutist and orchestral player and flute teacher, to concert and opera singer, as well as pianist, vocal coach, to church organist, concert organist, to choir and orchestral director.

I never set out to do all of these things, but when the opportunities came my way, I did what was in front of me. I saw it as a sign that God was leading me to my next steps. I have long since developed my own adage to live by: "Flexibility is the key to Longevity." For me, it has worked. I have not always been so perfect about listening to God's call as I am human, as we all are, and sometimes think I have a 'better plan,' but inevitably I soon experience the meaning of the Jewish proverb, "Man makes plans and God laughs." What you are doing now is a wonderful thing with all the construction and rebuilding... It excites and inspires me to see your faith in action and being present at every moment.

I invite you to come and try singing with the choir during this interim time. We are working hard to stay the course and at the same time try new things! I told the choir members who came at our very first Wednesday rehearsal that I feel that each group has their own inherent personality and sound, and we are going to discover together what exactly that is. I will listen carefully and hopefully be able to bring that out by discovering what makes all these individuals a unique "whole." It is also the same with a congregation and what they love to hear and sing, and I am open and willing to listen to you to see what it is that is your own unique song.

I'm sure many of you have heard the story of the African Himba tribe: when a woman is pregnant, she goes out into the wilderness with her closest friends to pray and meditate, and they stay until they can hear the song of the child. When they return, they go back to the village to teach everyone the song. The song is sung to the child at birth, through every rite of passage and through the final breath at the hour of death.

It is similar, but perhaps not as poignant to note, that some of us love the Beatles and some of us love Disco (well maybe not many), while others love Bach and some heavy metal. It's just what turns us on! While I'm fairly certain we won't be doing any heavy metal (although I did devise and teach kids to rap a Psalm one time), I am hoping to strike a balance of things musical, that when you hear them in the service, you'll say, "Wow, that makes me feel like singing!" These things may be different for each person. There are just some things that make us feel more alive when we hear them, and what those are is unique in each person. Together we will search out that personality and style that makes you happy and joyful! What is really important to remember is, while music can be uplifting, functional (service music and hymns), or presentational (solos and choir anthems and instrumental selections), it is all about preparing our hearts to open to the message. I make my choirs stand up and stretch and shake off the day before we start rehearsal. I think congregational singing should be a bit that way.

When I think of "making a joyful noise unto the Lord," I think of the vibration of the music shaking off our distracting thoughts and putting our hearts and minds in a place where we can enter into God's space and listen to the Holy Word.

Now more than ever, we need a place to go that can strengthen and sustain us through our busy week.

Thank you for allowing me in to that space. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you as we journey together!

New Parish Administrator to join

St. Mary's staff on November 26



On the Monday after Thanksgiving, we will be blessed to welcome Julienne Remie as our new parish administrator. Julie has over 30 years of administrative,

supervisory, office, customer service and financial experience spanning a variety of business types. She has been a parish administrator for five years and is looking forward to serving a parish as vibrant and active as St. Mary's. For the three weeks after Kate's departure, Frankie Stahlhut has graciously offered to cover the office and ensure that all administrative functions seamlessly continue. Colleen Mason will also continue her excellent work as our finance coordinator. Colleen and Frankie will work with Julie throughout the month of December to introduce her to the people and systems of St. Mary's. The combined experience and dedication of these three remarkable women will bless us all in the coming years.



O U T R E A C H

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Hyannis West says Thank You!

Please extend a big Thank You to everyone at St. Mary's for making so many Hyannis West Elementary students and families so happy! Your generous donation to our back-to-school 'Backpack Give-Away' put smiles on everyone. Your support means so much to the school and to each Hyannis West student. We deeply appreciate your generosity and look forward to our continued partnership.

Gratefully yours,
Liz Marcus
Community Outreach Coordinator

**St. Mary's Partners with
Cape Cod Cares for the Troops
and the Barnstable Village
Civic Association to offer the
first "Barnstable Village
Strolls for the Troops"**

Each December, thousands of people come to Barnstable Village for the annual Christmas Stroll. This year, on Wednesday December 5 from 6 – 8 pm, in addition to enjoying the caroling, chili, chowder, and holiday cheer, the "strollers" will be invited to donate items to send to our troops who are serving abroad at Christmas. St. Mary's will staff a table by the post office to collect the items and then Cape Cod Cares for the Troops will be sure they are sent to soldiers in need of Christmas joy and hope. Please contact Judy Scarafile (judyscarafile@gmail.com) if you are willing to volunteer at the table. We also invite you to bring some items to donate:

- Full-sized candy bars (M&M's, Snickers, etc.)
- Microwave popcorn
- Hot chocolate packets
- 10 - 12 oz. bags of ground coffee
- Powdered drink mixes
- Regular-sized deodorant
- Pocket-sized Kleenex packs
- Plain white athletic socks
- \$20 cash or check to help ship the care packages.



IN REACH & CARE

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Presented by the Pastoral Care Committee

Parkinsons Disease

Reprinted from the Mayo Clinic website:
<https://goo.gl/og5rHB>

Parkinson's disease is a progressive nervous system disorder that affects movement. Symptoms start gradually, sometimes starting with a barely noticeable tremor in just one hand. Tremors are common, but the disorder also commonly causes stiffness or slowing of movement. In the early stages of Parkinson's disease, your face may show little or no expression. Your arms may not swing when you walk. Your speech may become soft or slurred. Parkinson's disease symptoms worsen as your condition progresses over time. Although Parkinson's disease can't be cured, medications might significantly improve your symptoms. Occasionally, your doctor may suggest surgery to regulate certain regions of your brain and improve your symptoms.

Parkinson's disease signs and symptoms can be different for everyone. Early signs may be mild and go unnoticed. Symptoms often begin on one side of your body and usually remain worse on that side, even after symptoms begin to affect both sides.

Parkinson's signs and symptoms may include:

- Tremor. A tremor, or shaking, usually begins in a limb, often your hand or fingers. You may rub your thumb and forefinger back-and-forth, known as a pill-rolling tremor. Your hand may tremor when it's at rest.
- Slowed movement (bradykinesia). Over time, Parkinson's disease may slow your movement, making simple tasks difficult and time-consuming. Your steps may become shorter when you walk. It may be difficult to get out of a chair. You may drag your feet as you try to walk.
- Rigid muscles. Muscle stiffness may occur in any part of your body. The stiff muscles can be painful and limit your range of motion.
- Impaired posture and balance. Your posture may become stooped, or you may have balance problems as a result of Parkinson's disease.
- Loss of automatic movements. You may have a decreased ability to perform unconscious movements, including blinking, smiling or swinging your arms when you walk.
- Speech changes. You may speak softly, quickly, slur or hesitate before talking. Your speech may be more of a monotone rather than with the usual inflections.
- Writing changes. It may become hard to write, and your writing may appear small.

See your doctor if you have any of the symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease.

Open Circles - Two Year Update

"Open Circles" began at St. Mary's in fall 2016, designed "to help us extend friendship to others and to support one another in the challenge of living out our faith." Currently, this neighborhood-based program consists of seven groups of parishioners who meet periodically to socialize, deepen personal relationships, and support each other in life at St. Mary's and on the Cape.

Altogether, over 130 parishioners have attended at least one of these group gatherings since the program's inception. The Centerville "Pink Panthers" and the Brewster-Harwich-Dennis "St. Francis" groups have met thirteen times each for potluck dinners, picnics, or wine and cheese, plus fun and good conversation. Following a similar format, the Yarmouth-Barnstable "Agape" group has met eight times, and the Sandwich-West Barnstable "Blue Angels" group (joined with the Purple Group) has met approximately ten times. The steadily-active "Yellow" group of King's Way-area parishioners gathered four times in 2017 and once this year. However, the Cotuit-area "Orange" group and the Hyannisport "Red" group were active the first year of Open Circles, but have not met since then. Though individual groups have been more or less active, the seven groups together have met a total of 60 times over the past two years.



Agape Group 2018

In addition to socializing, several groups initially provided forums to discuss how to manage emergencies on the Cape, and more recently, to discuss the current St. Mary's renovation. In October, the Blue Angels and Purple Group co-sponsored a program with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Barnstable Village, focused on decluttering. As a service project, two of the groups provided coffee hours at church for many Sundays over the past year. In other words, each group is different, based on the interests of the members.

If Open Circles is an activity you want to join, please contact Judy Scarafile (judyscarafile@gmail.com) or Susanne Bennett (csusanne.bennett@gmail.com), who serve as the Open Circles Coordinators, or reach out to the church office (admin@stmarys-church.org) to express your interest. If you are a newcomer to St. Mary's, these groups provide an important avenue to become better acquainted with fellow parishioners. Or, if you have not participated in Open Circles in the past but now want to join, give us a call. We welcome all single adults, couples, and families.



Blue/Purple Circle hosts a decluttering workshop for the community at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Barnstable



MINISTRY SUPPORT



Holly Fair Prep is On! How Can I help?

**Be Part of the
Holly Fair 2018!
December 1, 9am-2pm**

**Donate, Help,
Come, Eat, and Buy!**

Our Holly Fair, scheduled for Saturday, December 1. Come fair time the construction will be well underway but not ready for the Holly Fair to take over its traditional space in the parish hall, sunroom, and library. Your Holly Fair team recently met and discerned that there is reclaimed space due to the preschool vacating the premises for this school year. In addition, a heated tent is being rented to enable serving and seating for the luncheon. The Holly Fair team is comfortable with the possibility that the Holly Fair may not be as successful financially as last year's, but we're confident it will be a fine event for both the workers and the shoppers. Most importantly, we'll be able to help support St. Mary's outreach efforts in the coming year. In addition, we'll be able to contribute at least a portion of the amount in the church budget that the Holly Fair was projected to provide. So, we look forward to you joining us once again to make the Holly Fair a huge success!

Our Silent Auction is looking for 100 treasures; a dinner for 2 (or more), a weekend getaway, a handy service, framed art, small antiques, culinary gifts, and so much more.

**Collection days in the previous As-Wee-Grow room
Nov. 7-9 and Nov. 14-16
Wed, Thurs, Fri, 10:30-1:30**

Two Sundays before the Fair (Nov 18 & 25), items will be on display in the previous As-Wee-Grow room and ready for early bids. Come after services, look, and make your bids! Questions? Joy Hambly 508-776-7230; Maureen Tempesta 508-737-1936; Helen Prothero 508-744-7261; Helen Hinckley 508-362-9821.

Our Hand-Mades Room: To those who knit, stitch, generally create, please make a final November push---time to gather your offerings for our Hand-mades Room. This is especially important this year as we will not have vendors. Meri Colbert 508-332-2995.

Our Kitchen Cupboard: Food, food, glorious food... Get out your recipes, and get ready to make and bake for our Kitchen Cupboard (include some gluten free)! We are all hoping for great enthusiasm on the part of many, many parishioners to share their skills and love, baked into all our offerings. Contact Caty McMahon Cell/Text: 617-678-2494 or e-mail: catymcmahon@gmail.com.

Jewelry Room: Sort through YOUR jewelry; bring your donations to the Church Office, then come to the Fair and re-stock!

Holly Gatherers: Explore, find (with permission!), trim holly (this is their trimming season), then help bag Friday morning, Nov. 30.... But initially, contact Jamie Hunsaker 508-362-3564, to coordinate this staple of our Fair.

Wreath and Boxwood Tree Decorating: We will be working from 9-2 on Nov. 24, 26, 27, 28, & 29, with an evening session from 6-8:30 on Tuesday, Nov 27. On Nov. 30 we'll finish cleaning up and will set up for the Fair, Creation Central --- St. Andrews room. Please come! Helpers needed. We plan to trim 36 fresh wreaths, create fresh greens arrangements, make and trim Boxwood "Trees"... We'll be collecting fresh greens beginning Nov. 24. Boxwood helpers contact Marge Mansur 508-362-8991. Others contact Christy Saling 508-775-0583, cesaling@gmail.com.

Attic Treasures could include collectibles, nice things you are ready to pass on, basically what might end up in your attic. Instead, save for this always-fun-to-explore room. Contact: Leezie Magruder 508-362-3373.

Our Children's Room provides an opportunity for children to buy or make gifts for their families and friends, wrap them, and have them ready for Christmas before they leave the room. If you have items suitable for children to buy for their moms, dads, brothers, sisters call Jessica Stanney, 508-713-3044.

Our Famed Five-Star Luncheon: Janis Umschlag has the gourmet skills but she needs many kitchen helpers, before, during, and cleaning up. Contact Janis at 508-362-9519.

Muscle Needed: Courtyard fair room workers need muscle setting up tables, moving existing furniture, and, after the fair, taking down, returning rooms to their original configuration. Call Frankie Stahlhut 703-380-8630.

Parking Coordinator is Ed Saling 508-775-0583. Please call Ed if you are able to help the day of the fair, Dec. 1.

General questions, volunteering, or offerings? Contact Frankie Stahlhut 703-380-8630 or Sue Davy 703-380-8629.



2017 Holly Fair

Renovation Update

Renovation report: Reconstruction follows deconstruction

By Peter Gwynne

Four months into our renovation project, the goal of a safe, secure, and sustainable campus is coming into view. Having spent the first three months deconstructing edifices in our campus, our contractor, ConServ has now started the reconstruction work that will make the church and its building more accessible, safer, and more sustainable.

Volunteers have already completed one project: the playground in the office quadrangle that we dedicated on October 13. Special mention goes to our sexton, Carmen, who volunteered his own time and made all the heavy work easier for everyone.

Elsewhere you can see multiple signs of progress. ConServ's workers have pumped the foundations for the new segments of the building. Individuals who witnessed the job saw a machine resembling a praying mantis pumping the concrete over the top of the parish hall. ConServ has also laid the foundation for the elevator shaft, and has completed the interior wall framing between the parish hall and the new hallway that will lead from the entryway to the elevator and bathrooms. In addition, workers have built the exterior walls of the first floor, and have put up a temporary structural wall in the parish hall to prepare for removal of the west wall. And excavation of a trench through the parish hall and sunroom for the waste system was almost complete at press time.

The interior of the church is no longer as empty as it was following removal of the pews and other items. Work on lowering and flattening out the altar area has been completed. The six stained-glass removed from the Gospel side of the nave to permit construction of a second aisle have arrived in their new locations, on the church's east, west, and north walls. At the same time, installation of the fire suppression system has begun.

The project's dedication to sustainability continue in various ways. Outdoors, our holy smokers have cleaned up, cut, split, and removed two-thirds of the wood behind the shed, thereby helping to fulfill our obligations to conservation. Inside, the pews have yet to return to the church; they are being refurbished. Elsewhere, workers have taken apart the stairway in the bell tower, doing so carefully enough to ensure that all the pieces remain available for future use.

Proposals under development, meanwhile focus on accessibility. Consultations with a lighting engineer have led to plans that will improve visibility inside the church: Ceilings will be painted a clean white, with new lighting designed to bounce off the ceiling and light the entire room, including the altar and choir areas. The project will retain the existing canned lights, possibly with different bulbs. Also under study is the prospect of an induction loop in the sanctuary – and the parish hall – that will enable congregants with hearing aids and cochlear implants to participate more fully in worship and other activities.

Work also continues at the administrative level. David and Ruthanne Allen, Mark and Peggy Anschutz, and Kate Dunigan-AtLee have undertaken the task of inventorying the church's many artifacts. Fr. Mark is photographing items and showing them to art preservationist friends in hopes of determining the best way to care for them.

What does this mean for the schedule? As it stands now, we expect the church to be open in some form by Christmas. It's even possible that as a congregation we might celebrate Thanksgiving in the church.

Capital Campaign

In tandem with the building renovation, many people continue to raise the funds to ensure that all of God's people feel welcome and safe when they come to St. Mary's. It is with great joy that I share the news that this week we received an extremely generous pledge to name that parish hall, and this gift brings our total funds raised to \$1,170,000. The cost of the building project (and some extras) is \$1,800,000 so we are drawing closer to our goal! Peter Scarafile, Janis Umschlag, and Frankie Stahlhut have submitted grants totaling over \$200,000 to help fund the renovation. Please thank them for their work and pray that the granting agencies are moved to support our vision for a fully accessible and safe church and parish hall, and to preserve our historic building for future generations.

We benefit daily from the generosity of previous parishioners who funded and endured the construction of our sanctuary, parish hall, kitchen, church school, and offices. Many of you have already made a gift or pledge to support our current renovation and we are deeply grateful for your generosity.

We will close the Capital Campaign in early December so that we can focus on preparations for Christmas – we still plan to worship in the newly renovated church for this sacred feast day! If you have not received a visit about the capital campaign and would like to be part of this project that will bless the community for generations, please contact Peter Scarafile to set up a visit to discuss your support.

(peterscarafile@gmail.com)

Rector's Sabbatical

"Jesus took himself apart often in his ministry, to pray, to be with God, to be renewed. The Clergy Sabbatical Program sponsored by the bishops seeks to ensure that clergy in the Diocese of Massachusetts have an opportunity for a time of sabbath, for a renewal of spirit and a reaffirmation of life with God. A sabbatical can offer opportunities for creativity and discovery for both the clergy person and the congregation. All clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Massachusetts who have been in active, ordained ministry for a minimum of eight years and in their current congregation for a minimum of five years ... are eligible for sabbatical." www.diomass.org

On November 16, I will celebrate the 10th anniversary of my ordination to the transitional diaconate and the gift of serving God and God's people in the church for over a decade. I have been blessed by ministering in two wonderful congregations, building relationships with hundreds of people, and by the opportunity to form community partnerships to expand our impact. I am thrilled to see our building renovation and capital campaign come to completion, projects that St. Mary's had been contemplating well before I was called as rector.

In the winter of 2019, I will be taking my first sabbatical in my career as a priest. This time away from daily parish responsibilities will give me the chance to rest, spend time with the children, actively cultivate several hobbies, and renew my energy and spirit for many more years of ministry with you. In the next month, you will receive a booklet with details about the sabbatical. In the mean time, know I am grateful for the support of the diocese, vestry, staff, and you all as I prepare for this time of renewal.

With gratitude and hope, Libby+

A Word From the Wardens



Caty McMahon, Junior Warden &
Peter Scarafile, Senior Warden

Dear friends,

After a busy summer filled with activity, it has been great for me and my family to get back to services at St. Mary's. It brings to mind the feeling one gets when seeing a dear friend for the first time in a while, when it feels like no time has passed. It really is like coming home.

It's been an amazing fall season filled with many blessings and lots of activity, including:

- Worship in the beautiful and historic Olde Colonial Courthouse.
- Seeing our beloved St. Mary's begin to transform into a safer, more accessible space. It is going to be beautiful!
- Watching children play on our new playground dedicated to the memory of Olivia Brodt.
- Attending the Blessing of the Animals on a gorgeous fall day.
- Witnessing so many volunteers who give their time, talents, and treasures to support so many important ministries; we may be under construction, but our work continues with love, creativity and dedication.

While all of this is going on, behind the scenes, the Finance Committee is hard at work drafting the 2019 annual budget. Please keep the committee in your prayers during this time. In addition, we will soon begin our annual pledge series; pledging to support our operating budget and all the blessings that St. Mary's brings us is an integral part of our parish life. Please keep the stewardship team in your prayers as well.

St. Mary's is a wonderful, vibrant place to be, with such a promising future ahead. It is an exciting time! I hope to see you all around the campus soon!

Peace and blessings,
Caty McMahon
Junior Warden

Brave Conversations

In March of 2018, seven intrepid souls – some of whom were still without power - braved the remnants of a blizzard to attend a program, put on by the Diocese of Massachusetts, called “Brave Conversations.” Along with perhaps one hundred others from around the Diocese, we learned skills for having difficult conversations about topics that matter. And we were challenged to bring these conversations back to our own parishes, to keep the momentum going. While the methods taught apply to all controversial topics, these particular conversations have been about race equity and white privilege, and what role the Church can play in rectifying systemic racism.

After a break over the summer, the St. Mary's Brave Conversations group is resuming on November 18, from 11:30-1pm, with a discussion of the book “Waking Up White” by Debby Irving. At press time for the newsletter, a specific day and time for the next meeting were still under discussion. Please contact Brave Conversations facilitator, Cathy Ode, to learn more; new members are welcome! Cathy can be reached in the office Sunday through Thursday at 508-362-3977 xt. 13 or via email at formation@stmarys-church.org.

Please note that all points of view are welcome at the table. In fact, a variety of opinions and experiences makes for richer conversation.

Kate, our parish administrator's last day is early November. To express our gratitude for all that she has done for the parish, we are collecting a purse to present at her farewell celebration on November 11. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to St. Mary's and put “Kate's purse” in the memo line.



Barbara Reed 11/1
 Max Dalrymple 11/2
 Anne Hazard 11/2
 Carol Lummus 11/2
 Sam Fedele 11/2
 Joyce Shinn 11/3
 Thomas Fahey 11/4
 Peggy Crampton 11/4
 Chrissy Anderson 11/4
 Suzanne Hutton 11/5
 Happy Gray 11/6
 Jan Hendrickson 11/7
 Kay Outwin 11/9
 Judy O'Brien 11/9
 Margaret Sullivan 11/11
 Lallie Lloyd 11/11
 Brenna Mullin 11/12
 Lee Hunsaker 11/12
 Sallie Irwin 11/13
 Jenni Lennon 11/13
 Vivian Stanney 11/13
 Isabelle Bresette 11/14

Mary Rhodes 11/15
 Sarah Rhodes 11/15
 Fred Kraics 11/15
 Richard Hawkins 11/21
 Judy Knauer 11/21
 Sue Davy 11/21
 Pat Sherlock 11/21
 Joyce Bertschmann 11/21
 Luke Machnik 11/22
 Carol Bolstad 11/23
 Marge Buswell 11/25
 Tara Riley 11/26
 Charlie Spencer 11/27
 Lydia Stanney 11/29
 Samuel Coakley 11/29
 Georgann Ramage 12/1
 Caryl Steward 12/2
 Jerry Brisbois 12/2
 Liz Lewis 12/4
 Mary Beth Condon 12/6
 Sophie Machnik 12/9

Chris Colbert 12/11
 Ran Chase 12/12
 Sue Jilson 12/12
 Benjamin LaPine 12/15
 Schuyler McMahon 12/15
 Helen Malone 12/15
 David Allen 12/16
 Newell Bearse 12/17
 Pat Bergfors 12/18
 Michael Fedele 12/20
 Irene Harbaugh 12/23
 Thomas Bresette 12/23
 John Bresette 12/23
 Leslyn Thorne 12/26
 David Leary 12/27
 Walter Gadkowski 12/28
 Betsy Syrovoy 12/28
 Steven Oney 12/28
 Liz Mumford 12/29
 Patrick Tyrrell 12/30

*IS YOUR NAME MISSING FROM THE BIRTHDAY LIST?
 PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN CELEBRATE YOU!*



www.stmarys-church.org

admin@stmarys-church.org

St. Mary's Newsletter is published 6 times a year.
Please send all submissions to the Editor:

The Rev. Dr. Libby Gibson, Rector

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ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COME GIVE THANKS

Veterans' Day Service

November 11, 10am

Come honor our veterans.

Community Thanksgiving Meal

Thanksgiving Day, Service at 11am & community dinner at noon.

All are welcome to share a beautiful Thanksgiving meal together.