

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

April 2022

IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

It's hard to believe, but in a few weeks we'll be celebrating Holy Week and Easter. And, we'll be having these primary worship services in our faith with in-person attendance. The last time we had Holy Week and Easter worship in-person was back in 2019. As I say that, I still find it hard to believe...was it that long ago? That can't possibly be right? But it is. We haven't gathered together for the holiest days of our faith since our Diocese instituted lockdown in March of 2020.

We've been able to have a form of in-person worship since last year, but there have been pandemic restrictions. Even though we've relaxed pretty much all those restrictions, we're still not back to how it always was.

Not everyone is ready to return. Not everyone feels safe returning to the building if everyone isn't wearing a mask or socially distanced. Not everyone can return. Not everyone is coming back to the building for a variety of reasons. Some are just happy watching online. Some will return to the church, but not on Sunday morning. Others have just stopped worshipping anywhere.



I have to admit, I miss the abundant gatherings of parishioners. The fellowship, Coffee Hour discussions (and the food!), seeing people in real life and not in a little box, and getting to know how everyone is doing. There's a vitality of faith when we gather together. Gathering matters.

Worshipping together is part of what God calls us to do. It's relational. God wants us to form the kind of relationships with others that God hopes to have with us. It reminds us that we are not alone on our faith journey. Plus, let's face it, we learned that life in isolation is not really a life lived in joy. We are created to be together.

But I do understand the struggles that many feel about what church means. And, the struggles churches across all denominations are facing as we return to a new way (maybe new "ways") of being church in this time.

I want to assure you that whether you come in the building to worship or not, watch online or not, are still trying to figure it out, too, you're still part of the church. And, I'd love to hear from you, meet you, listen to your concerns and ideas. Call the office and let Maggie know you'd like to make an appointment.

I do promise you that I'll be working with everyone to discover ways to include people, find ways to expand our opportunities to gather safely, and to be supportive at a time when we truly need it. I promise we'll have some fun, too.

In the meantime, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter are wonderful opportunities to gather again for glorious worship, the promise of salvation, and the joy of God's love for us. I hope to see you at a service. It's been a while.

Blessings,
Rev. Terri

VESTRY

Vestry Report

John Joy, Sr Warden

Charles Everhart, Jr Warden

Richard Davis

Judy Franklin

open

Andrea Harner

Newsletter editor—John Glaze

Submissions to THE RED DOOR are welcomed. © items cannot be published without consent of the owner.

Samaritan Outreach continues to depend upon donations to meet their current needs. Please help us help SOS serve our community. There is a collection box in the foyer of the new building.

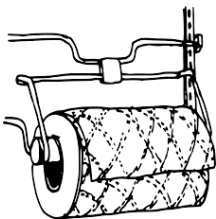


Diapers

Clothes Washing Liquid

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels



If you would prefer to mail a monetary donation:

**Samaritan Outreach Services
PO Box 242
Hillsboro, OH 45133**

I looked back at the report from last year, and would like to start out with part of one sentence from the opening paragraph...”let’s join together in hoping and praying that 2021 will be a year in which St. Mary’s Episcopal church can look to the future and experience a rebirth in both spirit and growth”. I respectfully ask all of you to consider the past year at St. Mary’s and reflect upon it. Do you feel more positive about the Church? Are you more optimistic about St. Mary’s now than a few years ago? Are you anxious to return to Coffee Hour and wine at Communion? I hope you have found some new and additional enthusiasm for St. Mary’s and I want to thank those of you prayed for St. Mary’s during the year.....prayer works!

We enjoyed a full year of services from our Supply Priest, Rev. David Bailey, and although he moved on in early 2022, we are deeply grateful for his work during the past 18 months. Thank you, David! We are enjoying spending this time with Rev. Terri Thornton, who will be our Supply Priest for the next several months. With her robust previous experience in organizational development and experience in several roles within the Diocese, Rev. Terri will be a huge asset to St. Mary’s in the months ahead. Also, if you have not enjoyed her passion and enthusiasm during her sermons, I strongly suggest you attend (either in person or via social media) and hear for yourself.

The Diocese, along with other segments of our society, is easing up on Covid restrictions; let us all pray this recovery continues and we get back to more normal modes of operation. We are very pleased to note that we are receiving a Building Repair grant from the Diocese that will allow us to proceed with a number of building improvements, including much needed heat in the Sanctuary. More info on the Building Projects was provided at the Annual meeting. Diocesan reporting and our church budgeting and accounting procedures are now in place for the third year, and I trust you have been pleased with the reports provided that convey our financial position and reporting.

Although the mid-week visit from Bishop Provisional Wayne Smith occurred in early 2022, much of the ground work for the visit was put in place during 2021. We are truly appreciative of Bishop Smith’s time, and hope that all who attended share our thanks for his time listening and hearing from us about St. Mary’s. Most everyone I talked to felt very positive about the visit, and feel like we actually are being listened to at the Diocesan level.

I would also like to thank all of you that help and work at St. Mary’s—Vestry members Rich, Andrea, Judy, Charlie, Maggie, our Secretary, John our organist and Tech coordinator, Dea Flinn, our Altar Guild stalwart, and anyone else I may have overlooked.

In closing, I would respectfully request you join me in considering the financial state at St. Mary’s. As most of you know, we are blessed with some endowments, managed by the Diocese that put us in a much better position than many other congregations within the Diocese. Please be aware that with the past building addition, along with an expensive list of repairs and maintenance that are needed to keep our church and building beautiful, that endowment has, and will continue to shrink. Please join me in considering additional donations to St. Mary’s, whether for operations or for the building projects. I have found myself hesitant in the past to donate more, because of the endowment. With so many positives ahead of us, please join me in taking some action to boost the giving and income at St. Mary’s.

In closing, please join me in looking forward to 2022 as another year in which we continue to build and restore both the buildings of St. Mary’s and the spiritual and congregational well-being of our church.

John Joy

Service Schedule

10 am - 3 April - Last Sunday of Lent

10 am - 10 April - Palm Sunday

TBA - 14 April - Maundy Thursday

TBA - 15 April - Good Friday

10 am - 17 April - Easter Sunday



A Song of Christ's Goodness

*Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.*

*Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.*

*Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.*

*Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.*

*Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us;
in your love and tenderness, remake us.*

*In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.*

-Anselm of Canterbury

Community Good Friday Service

15 April - 7pm

Speaker: Tracy Cross, Wayman Chapel

Carpenter's House of Prayer

7450 Fairground Rd, Hillsboro

Sponsored by Hillsboro Area Ministerial Association



Would you like to visit with Rev. Terri? Call the church office to schedule an appointment!

PARISH PRAYER LIST

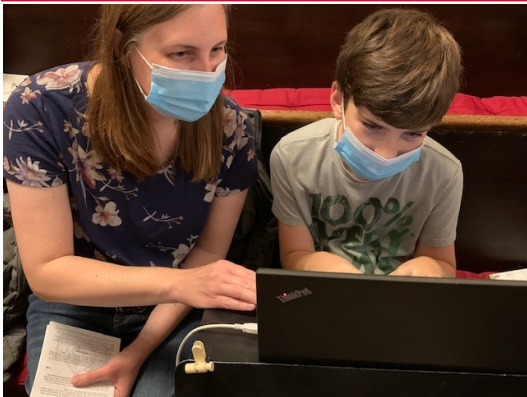
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and these on our Parish prayer list: Joyce Kittrell, Keith Sowell, Herschel Hook, Nancy Orth, Mary Reynolds, Maxine McGrath, Sharon Kamm, Bob & Dorothy Hodson, Susan Bright, Dan Fisher, Randall Jones, Bob Lowell, Becki Crum, the concerns of Paul & Joyce Nort, those suffering with coronavirus as well as all health workers treating them, the patients and staff at Georgetown Veterans Home as well as those serving in our armed forces: Macy Lyle, Henry Sherrill, Jaden Chin-Franz and Javier Paula.

Names in **Bold will be removed at the end of the month. If you know the person continues to need our prayers please call the church office.*



The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St.
Hillsboro, OH 45133



*Andrea & Ty Harner, our
video tech folks, hard at
work to record our services
for showing on Facebook.*

Lector & Intercessor Schedule

1st week	Betty & Jim Heathcote
2nd week	Connie Reynolds & Dea Flinn
3rd week	Carol & John Joy
4th week	Rich Davis & Connie Reynolds
5th week	Connie Reynolds & Dea Flinn

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH INFORMATION

The Diocese of Southern Ohio
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-2043

The Rev. Terri Thornton
Supply Priest

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 am
IN PERSON & Streaming on Facebook
COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND—
Sunday after service.

*We strive to be safe and make our parishioners and
guests feel safe and welcome!*

WEB SITE:
www.smehillsboro.weebly.com