

# The Red Door

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

April 2023

### RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR

JUPITER TEQUESTA  
CHURCH of CHRIST

ACTING PERFECT IN CHURCH  
IS LIKE DRESSING UP  
FOR AN X-RAY

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9 NRSV)*

Why do we do things the way we do? What is it that we believe and how is that expressed in our worship? In our choices of ministries? In our political and social choices? In our everyday lives? This very big question is at the root of the Lenten season.

Traditionally, Lent is a time of self-discernment. It is a time when we set aside distractions in our lives so that we can focus on the choices in our lives that really matter. When we do this well, we actually do get to the root of those first questions: why do we do what we do? What does it really mean?

Every time we make a decision, it is a reflection of our core beliefs. My hope is that my core beliefs are not things like "I prefer things to look like they are supposed to." I pray that they are more like "I prefer things to be carried out with integrity and deep meaning."

So where do these thoughts take me in our joint church life? I keep thinking about all the decisions that we make in our congregational life. What does it mean that we now worship both in person and online? What is the theological difference between intinction and common cup (they are very different)? What does it mean when we choose to sit next to someone we know well instead of sitting next to someone we don't really know or don't know at all?

What does it all mean?

Rev Warren Huestis

### PARISH READING

#### EXTRACTED FROM THE CLUTTER OF THE RECTOR'S DESK

*Why do we do that? Book of Common Prayer*

I remember my first time walking into an Episcopal church. It was intimidating because my previous church norm was theater seating with cup holders, loud music, and a light show. In this environment, I felt comfortable, like it was made for me. But once I entered St Andrew's Episcopal Church, I found myself afraid of doing something wrong. The space felt sacred, and I was not sure I belonged there. It took me a year of asking, "Why do we do that?" Well, honestly, I asked, "Why do you do that?" The "we" didn't come until later, when I began to feel comfortable. I must have asked various forms of this question about a hundred times. Each time that I received an answer felt like an invitation into a new way of being Christian, a sacred way of being Christian. I began to learn that I belonged in the sacred spaces of the church, that God wants us in God's sacred spaces.

One of the first questions I asked when I arrived at St Andrew's was, "Where are all your Bibles? All I can find are these Prayer Books." I was eventually pointed in the direction of a Bible. However, behind the question there were two things happening. The first was my initial encounter with the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). As someone coming from an evangelical mega-church tradition, I found a prayer book odd. I had no idea the Daily Office was not a room with a desk. To me, a collect was what you did to things that were scattered. These had nothing to do with prayer. The BCP was a foreign book, and I met it with skepticism. Secondly, my question had created a framework that placed the BCP against the Bible. My previous church experiences taught me to be leery of anything that was not scripture. Regardless, over the next several months I explored the Prayer Book and realized that I was often praying the scriptures. The BCP was not against the Bible; rather, it was a tool that enhanced my ability to encounter and be affected by scripture.

As I continued to use the Prayer Book, I grew increasingly fond of the section of Prayers and Thanksgivings. All my life, my prayers had only been a conversation with God. I still think that an intimate and spontaneous prayer life is important, but there were times when I encountered tragedy or a complex issue for which I simply did not have words. In these situations, I found comfort in pages 814-841. The prayers not only gave words to the groans of my heart, but they often challenged me to see things and engage the world in a new way.

While I continued to explore this book, I also learned how the BCP connects us to the rich history of the church. It →

# VESTRY

# Vestry Report

John Joy, Sr Warden  
 Charles Everhart, Jr Warden  
 Richard Davis  
 Judy Franklin  
 open  
 Andrea Harner  
 Judy Sauer  
 Barb Zumwalde  
 Newsletter editor—John Glaze

I am very pleased to announce that we have reached a settlement with the contractors regarding the shoddy and sub-standard HVAC work done several years ago when the new addition was built. Although we did not recover the full amount we lost, we did reach agreement with the contractors involved to recover \$36,215.05. Those funds will go towards a new and properly designed heating and cooling system. McCarty and Associates of Hillsboro are currently working on HVAC drawings, as well as some new drawings for the electrical service. Once these new drawings are received, we will re-bid those aspects of the work. Current thinking is to install HVAC units in the rear corners of the balcony, and distribute the air from ductwork concealed in new enclosures along each side above the windows at the height of the first change in ceiling elevation.

I am also excited to report we are slowly filling up the chairs for services in Lacy Hall. We are blessed to be enjoying the services of our shared Priest, Rev. Warren Huestis. In the event you don't know, we are having Sunday services at 9 am through the end of April, at which time we will try out 11:30 services on Sunday during May and June. After that, both congregations (St. Mary's and All Saints) feedback will be received from all concerned on how these trial times work. Please feel welcome to join us on Sundays, or on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month when Rev. Warren conducts a shortened worship service at noon in Lacy Hall. If you are thinking about attending church again, or for the first time, consider the Wednesday service. It can be done over lunch for those of you working, and would be great way to check out why the Episcopal Church is considered unique by many. Don't hesitate to contact the office at 937 393 2043 if you have questions.

*John Joy*, Senior Warden

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

2 Apr - Palm Sunday 9a	SM
3 Apr - Taize Prayer Svc 7p	AS
4 Apr - Holden Evening Prayer 7p	AS
5 Apr - Compline 7p	AS
6 Apr - Maundy Thurs 6p	AS
<i>Meal followed by HE w/foot washing</i>	
7 Apr - Good Friday 12n	SM
8 Apr - Easter Vigil 8p	AS
9 Apr - Easter Sunday 9a	SM
SM=St. Mary's AS=All Saints	

⇒ contains many prayers that have stood the test of time. Christians have gathered for centuries and sometimes longer reciting forms of our same prayers. Our connection to history in this way helps us to have assurances that our faith and worship continue from, and remain connected to, the historic church. This connection is especially important in a fast-moving and ever-changing world. The BCP ensures that the church will not shift just because the culture shifts.

Even though our Prayer Book has roots in history, it is certainly not stuck there. The BCP has gone through and continues to go through thoughtful revisions. These revisions help the BCP continue to pass down meaningful historic worship while also keeping it accessible and making it relevant. The BCP roots us in good soil, but it is comprehensive enough to encourage its worshippers to think and engage its current time and place.

It seems to me that as a society we do not only change fast, but also we change passionately. These passions often lead us into divisions. We are in a country and a world that is increasingly dividing over many issues. These divisions have also led to polarization. Polarized people see the other and treat the other as an enemy. This way of "being" leads to a life of contempt of the other. The church has not been immune to this polarization. Oftentimes the church has been one of the culprits. In this passionate and fast-changing world, the BCP helps us to keep the main thing the main thing, and the main thing is the worship of God. The BCP helps ensure that our church will not be hijacked by polarizing ideologies. The people of the church are not Democrats or Republicans or whatever ideological label that we divide over; no, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. In times of division, the BCP helps us to understand that we have something in common, that we have a lot more in common than we can ever have in conflict. The BCP draws this commonality by being incredibly comprehensive in ways that allow polarized groups to worship together. The beauty of the way it does this is that it does not quench the passions of the people, rather it connects those passions to God. It does not allow the church to be easily distracted by polarized opinions; rather, it calls us back to the focused worship of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in ways that give those passions guidance.

Finally, for me, the BCP has become more than a book that shows us how to pray. It is a book that teaches us how to believe. We have a book of prayers and services that continue to orient our lives back toward God. Bishop Jeffery Lee says it well in his book *Opening the Prayer Book*:

"The prayer book does not offer precise doctrinal formulations that must be adhered to; rather, it provides the forms that outline our practice of the Christian faith, shaped principally by worship. If you ask an Anglican what it means to belong to the church, the answer might well be, 'Come and worship with us.' Being an Anglican means doing what the church does – and what the church does, first and foremost, is worship the living God. It is out of our common worship that our understanding of God proceeds and our ethical and moral decision-making takes shape."

If someone wants to know what Episcopalians believe, invite them to come and pray with you. Belief cannot be separated from the actions of worship and prayer. As people who worship and pray, we are constantly having our beliefs formed. Beliefs are not static, although we often treat them as if they are. Beliefs are dynamic. They come out of a relationship guided by prayer and worship. And when prayer and worship are done well, they open us up to new and challenging experiences with God.

There are many reasons that we use the Book of Common Prayer. I'm sure you even have a few that I have not shared. I encourage you to think of times that the BCP has influenced your life. Maybe it is a prayer that comforted you, maybe one that challenged you, or maybe one that helped you to pray for your enemy. The BCP is a wonderful tool that helps us to root and grow in our faith. May it be that for you in this next season of your life.



## Helping Church Shoppers

In the Feb/Mar 2023 issue of Guideposts magazine there appears an article on "How to Find a New Church." Perhaps we can glean a few ideas from what people are looking for when visiting a church and make sure we hit those benchmarks.

Folks who change churches due to a move to a new location often find things greatly different than their "old church." This is especially true if they were in their previous location for many years. They don't have those supports from folks who often have known them since they were children and their children grew up very familiar with the entire parish, knowing them as extended family. This is one great value in the Episcopal Church--we tend to be very much the same regardless of location.

*"A Pew Research Center study found that Americans cite the quality of the sermon and a warm welcome as the two most important elements in a new church."* states the article.

Websites are a good place to start when people are seeking a new church...they answer the basics of where and when, for example. The article suggests looking at the church's Statement of Faith and at leadership--the educational background and ministry experience and even suggests listening to online sermons.

### Does One Size Fit All?

Other matters of importance to individuals include MUSIC. *"Some music may distract you...while other music may lead you into God's presence. It is a serious consideration."*

Consider STYLE. This gets to personal preferences of a larger church or a smaller one. Larger churches can offer more outreach and social programs, but a smaller church can offer an intimate "family feel."

The article suggests that those "shopping" give the congregation a chance to get to know them by perhaps going a bit early and staying for a while after the service to let people get to know them.

Perhaps the most important suggestion taken from the article is that the visitor **GIVE IT TIME**. Visit for at least a month.

What can we take from this article. My suggestion is to re-read this, or, better yet, visit our library and borrow the magazine to read the entire article. Then, begin to think about how you can fit into a visitor's time with us. Think now about questions you may ask or greetings you may give. Then, when the time presents itself, you are well-prepared to make that person feel that you've been awaiting his or her visit.

More than likely, the visitors have not read the Guideposts article. You may not get a second chance to make a first impression! Always remember that, to the visitor, YOU are St. Mary's. It is up to you to do the best you can to help grow our parish.



March 19 has come and gone and we have **WINNERS** in our

### JEOPARDY St. Mary's Edition game!

Right after church, we gathered in the "television studio" around the **BIG SCREEN** which presented the Jeopardy Answers with our contestants providing the Questions, a la true Jeopardy style!

Four teams made up of:

Team 1: Andrea, Rob & Ty Harner and Rich Davis

Team 2: John & Carol Joy, Jim & Betty Heathcote

Team 3: Barb Zumwalde & Dave Turdelot (hope I spelled that correctly, Dave!)

Team 4: Dea Flinn, Connie Reynolds and Matt Sauer.

After the dust settled here were the standings:

Team 4: 10400 points - pictured above!

Team 3: 2800 points

Team 1: 1600 points

Team 2: 1000 points

Following the game, Barb and Dave treated us with a delicious lunch of lasagna, salad and croissants. Fantastic!

Now, our winners have bragging rights (there was no money involved in the winning of Jeopardy). They may request that you bow as you meet them....but I'll leave that all up to them.



# The Red Door

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

**MARCH & APRIL**  
**\*NEW\* SERVICE TIMES**

**Sunday - 9am**  
**2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 12n**

See HOLY WEEK Schedule inside!



## Lector & Intercessor Schedule

<b>1st week</b>	<b>Betty &amp; Jim Heathcote</b>
<b>2nd week</b>	<b>Connie Reynolds &amp; Dea Flinn</b>
<b>3rd week</b>	<b>Carol &amp; John Joy</b>
<b>4th week</b>	<b>Rich Davis &amp; Connie Reynolds</b>
<b>5th week</b>	<b>Connie Reynolds &amp; Dea Flinn</b>

## 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. Warren Huestis  
Rector

**SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9 am**  
In person & Streaming on Facebook

**2nd & 4th WEDNESDAYS - 12 noon**  
In person only

**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](http://www.smehillsboro.weebly.com)