

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

August 2021

PILGRIM PRIEST'S PONDERINGS

DAVID BAILEY

MEMBERSHIP

Dear Friends,

How is Congregational Membership defined in the Episcopal Church?

Our primary source for the following definitions comes from the Constitution and Canons of The General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America (yes, I had to look up the full title!), with additional references to the Diocese of Southern Ohio Canons and to St. Mary's By-laws. Here are the definitions (with added comment when appropriate):

A Member is defined as: Any person who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church, or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptism has been duly recorded in the Congregational Registry of this Church, is a member of the Episcopal Church and of the Congregation. [Canon I.17.1 (a)]. The Episcopal Church does not require rebaptism (quite the contrary) or an affirmation of Faith, to become a member. Simply let the office know of your desire to be a member and when and where you were baptized. If you have not been baptized, we can baptize you (after instruction)!

Members who are sixteen years old or older are Adult Members [Canon I.17.1 (b)]

Members who receive Holy Communion at least three times during the preceding year are Communicants [Canon I.17.2 (a)]. Those Communicants who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship (unless for good reason prevented), and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are Communicants in Good Standing [Canon I.17.3].

Adult Communicants in Good Standing are eligible to vote in Parish Meetings for Vestry members and for other Parish business. [Diocese of Southern Ohio Canon XVI.2 and Parish Bylaw II.1 (c)]

Now, what about Confirmation?

All Adult Members are expected (after appropriate instruction) to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to be confirmed or received by the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church. [Canon I.17.1.(c-d)]. Confirmed Adult Communicants in Good Standing are eligible to be elected as Delegates to Diocesan Convention and to be licensed by the Bishop for various ministries: Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister (Chalice Bearer), Eucharistic Visitor, Catechist, and Evangelist. [Canon III.4.2-9].

So, lots of categories, lots of definitions!

To me the most important is Communicant in Good Standing, that is, a person who is faithful in worship, working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

So where are you on this list?

Where do you want to be? I am available to answer your questions and concerns as we work at St. Mary's to spread the Kingdom of God.

Your fellow Ambassador for Christ,

David+

VESTRY

Vestry Report

John Joy, Sr Warden
 Charles Everhart, Jr Warden
 Richard Davis
 Judy Franklin
 Sandy Ferrell
 Andrea Harner

Newsletter editor—John Glaze
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Join us for Coffee Hour following Service on Sunday!

On behalf of the Vestry, I want to extend a big thank you to all the staff and parishioners who have attended a recent service and joined us celebrating the steps taken to return to a “normal” worship service. We appreciate David, John Glaze, Sandy, Deanna, and Maggie as they have assisted us through a difficult time, as well as any others I may have missed. It is truly a blessing to be able to partake of both the Body and Blood of our Savior during Communion once again. Coffee hour has returned as well, with a number of safety precautions in place. Please attend on Sunday and join us for a service as we all enjoy our return to many worship practices that were in place before Covid 19.

I am pleased to report that we are making some progress on our HVAC issues. Vestry members, our attorney, our HVAC consultant, and a contractor’s insurance claim adjuster met last week to discuss the issues and damage we incurred. We are optimistic we can reach resolution soon. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our attorney, Kevin Carter, and his legal firm from Cincinnati, Frost Brown Todd, LLC. They have graciously agreed to take on the rest of this case on a pro bono basis, for which we are most appreciative.

Another thank you is extended to all of you who have and are continuing to support St. Mary’s financially. Our checking account, while having a modest balance, has grown slowly but surely during this year. Please don’t think your contributions are not important, or are overlooked, because they are vital to our continued operation and very much appreciated.

Lastly, I believe St. Mary’s and our Diocese are entering a new era, where much of the doubt and fear that have been with us recently will be replaced by light, hope, and trust. Father David as well as our new Bishop Provisional Wayne Smith has challenged us all to look at both what we fear, and what we trust, while encouraging all to love God and love each other as ourselves. I am confident these messages, as well as others, will inspire us all to be better Christians.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Joy
 Sr. Warden*

WELCOME to DAN FISHER! (and Dustin)

Dan has joined St. Mary’s Parish Family and we want you all to welcome him and his trusty service dog!

This month you get a “twofer” - Who could this be?



Who is this?

Answer next month

Last month: John Joy



Sewanee Church Music Conference

The second full week of July was the SCMC and I attended...virtually, as all did. It worked quite well, although we only met for a couple hours in the morning and a couple in the evening.

Current Dean of Theology at Sewanee (but stepping down in August) Dr. J. Neil Alexander, spoke on Wednesday morning. He was our clergy several years ago and he a very kind and thoughtful man as well as being a former church organist! He talked about our return to somewhat normal life in the church and that he really had looked forward to singing. "CHRISTIANS SING!" he said.

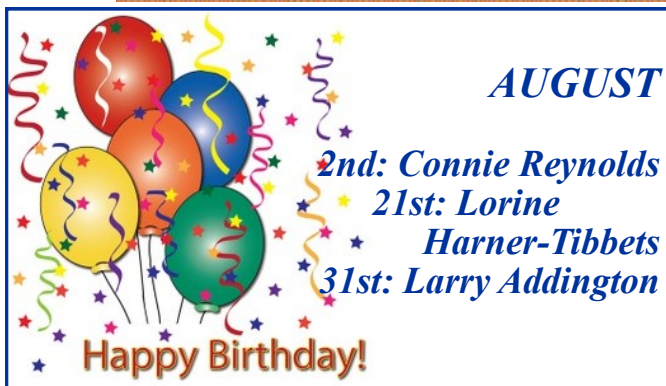
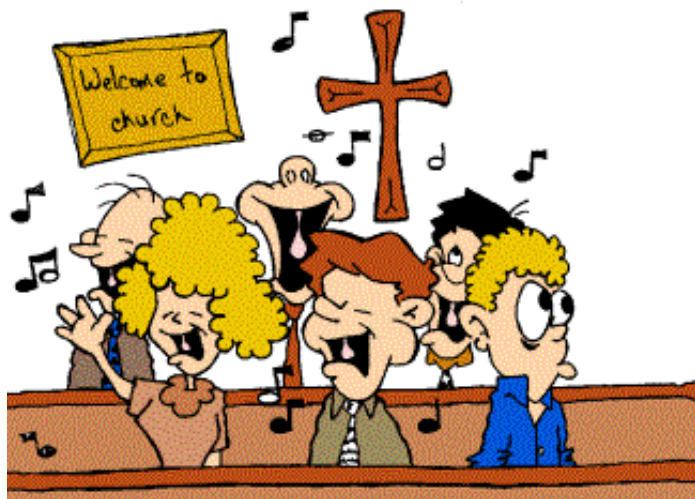
Some other comments included that our hymn tunes carve into our souls, into our minds and into our hearts. As example, and you may well relate to this, he mentioned that when he is trying to recall the words to a hymn, he often must sing the words he knows and when he gets to the words he had trouble remembering, they are there, as the tune had carved its way into him. He also pointed out that in the 1982 Hymnal, you'll find very few hymns with "I" used. The majority of hymns incorporate "WE" which points us to the corporate worship we should experience.

Neil believes that Parish health and growth is vitally tied to congregational singing. There would be a soulful disconnect if we didn't sing together.

Singing in church is

**HEALTHFUL
MISSIONAL
NEEDED FOR GROWTH!**

SING! SING! SING!



Receiving Holy Communion helps you feel a part of the Parish of St. Mary's. Rev. David will bring communion to you on Sunday following the service at the church. Call the office to request!

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Herschel Hook, Esther Russell, Nancy Orth, Mary Reynolds, Jim Shirkey, Maxine McGrath, Ann-Marie Ogden, Tom Bright, Charlie and Martha Gorman, Bob & Dorothy Hodson, Susan Bright, Virginia Harewood, Dan Fisher, Jim and BJ Gee, the families of Elsie Young, Beth Lancaster and Cindy Eigel, and the patients and staff at Georgetown Veterans Home as well as those serving in our armed forces: Macy Lyle, Henry Sherrill, Jaden Chin-Franz, Isaac Campbell, Ethan and Samantha Anderson, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Almighty and everliving God,
ruler of all things
in heaven and earth,
hear our prayers
for this parish family.
Strengthen the faithful,
arouse the careless,
and
restore the penitent.
Grant us all things necessary
for our common life,
and bring us all to be of
one heart and mind
within your holy Church;
through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The Red Door

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



**The first Sunday
of August, we will
again welcome
Rev. Elaine Silver-
strim as our Cele-
brant! Please help
us make her feel
welcomed!**

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. David Bailey
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

Lector & Intercessor Schedule

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