

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

February 2024

RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR

ANNUAL MEETING



Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one

another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

(Hebrews 10:23-25 NRSV)

Death and rebirth – this is the core of what it means to be Christian. We are promised through the Gospels that even (or especially) in the face of death and destruction, we are promised new life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This continues to be a very important (if not the most important) aspect of our life in Christ.

This past year we have seen significant growth in attendance. When I came to visit in 2022, the average attendance was 12. We have been averaging about 20 with peak attendance for a while at 26. We have had some new to the congregation people come and spend some time with us. This is encouraging but also shows that we still have work to do.

This was a year of new beginnings. It was the beginning of my time here with you. It has been the beginning of the reconstruction of the nave (main church). It was the beginning of our exploration of our new relationship with All Saints, Washington Court House. This has been a time of experimentation and discovery. One of the most significant learnings which came from this is that no solution is or will be ideal for everyone. The best that we can hope for is to find a solution that mostly works and to continue working towards the day that All Saints and Saint Mary's will both be fully self-sustaining once again.

Finally, this past year I continued my work on a Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development degree focusing on rural and small church ministry. Last year I told you to look forward to being my guinea pig as I learn new strategies and skills and try to apply them to our ministry together. Well, the time has come. As part of my coursework, I will be offering a Lenten study which I will be calling "Clunky Questions: What does it mean to be Reconciling In Christ." I will be inviting members of both All Saints and Saint Mary's to take part. The project requirements call for at least eight participants of as diverse backgrounds as possible. There will be three sessions spread throughout Lent. Please consider being part of this.

God bless us all.

Rev Warren Huestis



PARISH READING

EXTRACTED FROM THE CLUTTER OF THE RECTOR'S DESK

An Annual Meeting as a Celebration of Faithfulness

By Tom Tumblin On August 16, 2017

How can you turn a routine, boring business meeting into something more celebratory and faith-filled? Tom Tumblin describes how the awarding of an annual servant leadership award turned a congregation's annual meeting into an inspiring reminder of how the hand of God is at work in their faith community.

One of my favorite memories from a church where I served was the annual church conference. Most pastors will recoil at the idea of enjoying the annual meeting, but our staff had reengineered what had often been a boring business meeting into a high celebration of faithfulness in the congregation. We still held the necessary votes for new leaders and staff salaries, but those items were limited to ten minutes or so in the agenda. The bulk of our energy was focused on a "This is Your Life" experience in a pleasant dinner setting. Ministry area leaders were invited to identify one individual in their area who exemplified the mission and values of the congregation. That person was then nominated for a servant leadership award that became highly coveted because only those who excelled at loving Christ and serving others qualified for consideration.

As the people of God, we are called to applaud the goodness of God when it shows up through God's people.

The pastor opened the evening with an inspiring reminder of our covenant as coworkers in the kingdom of God, dependent on the Holy Spirit and one another for the ministry God had given us. Then, one by one, ministry area leaders would first describe, and then name, →

VESTRY

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

Parish Reading *(continued)*

the recipient of the annual award for their area. As the description was read, the audience would begin to quietly guess who was to be honored. They would look around the room, trying to identify the person being named. Often recipients' eyes would begin to well up as they realized they were to receive the award. Once the ministry area leader announced the name, the crowd would join in wonderful applause and thanksgiving for the nominee. The annual celebrations of God's graciousness through those honored stoked the faith of everyone in the room.

It's no accident that a portion of the tithe designated in the early Israelite worship, passed down to us, includes the party. God knows we need to celebrate. We are designed to revel in the goodness of our creating and sustaining Lord. As the people of God, we mark God's character with worship and thanksgiving, honoring the One who redeems us and allows us to participate in eternal purpose. In the same way, we are called to applaud the goodness of God when it shows up through God's people.

How will the congregation "provoke one another to love and good deeds" according to Hebrews 10:24 (NRSV)? Where will there be occasions for encouraging one another in faithfulness? How will the people be able to watch and see the hand of God at work around the faith community?

Create openings for honoring committed paid and unpaid staff who embrace the call of God. In public and private ways, build up the saints for the work of the ministry. Slow down enough to bask in the wonders of the Spirit's handiwork, thereby planting seeds of hope and confidence in God's future.

This article is taken from Thomas F. Tumblin's *AdMinistry: The Nuts and Bolts of Church Administration* (Abingdon Press, 2017.) The book is available at Cokesbury and Amazon. <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/annual-meeting-celebration-faithfulness/>

Annual Meetings

With our ANNUAL MEETING coming up, I thought it might be interesting to look back at extant records of previous Annual Meetings just to see what we can learn. In the early days, Annual Meetings weren't held annually and even vestry meetings weren't regular. I remember times where it was recorded that, since it had been a couple years since the last vestry meeting, it was decided to hold one!

1872 - The Vestry record book includes the following report of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, **April 1, 1872**: "Pursuant to notice given by Rev. Mr. Ely, the following members of St. Mary's Church assembled at the Church on Monday the first of April 1872 at 1/2 past ten o'clock for the purpose of electing vestrymen for the ensuing year: Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Sams, Mrs. Trimble, Mrs. Gray, Miss Wever, Miss A. Murphy, Miss Trimble, Miss Billingham, Mrs. Bales, Mrs. Paley, Frank Read, Mr. Ross, John Reed, Mr. Mullenix, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Sams, Frank Armstrong. After Morning Service, Mr. Sams took charge of the meeting. The Constitution and Canons of the Church having been referred to, it was the opinion of the Minister and the Wardens of the Church that there was nothing therein to prevent ladies, who contributed to the support of the Parish and were also bona fide members of the Church from voting at the election for Vestrymen. Accordingly, several ladies so qualified voted at this election for Vestrymen, contrary to the practice in this Parish heretofore."

1895 - After the winter of 1895, a Parish meeting was held on **May 8, 1895**. The Rector stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of devising ways and means for heating the church, as the present stoves "were absolutely useless." A committee was appointed to raise the necessary funds for heating the church. To pay for the project, a "Subscription List" was prepared to secure pledges for the purpose of heating the church with steam. By the June 15, 1895 meeting, Mr. Wright presented a number of letters and propositions from different parties. In addition, the building committee was authorized to seek out plans and specifications for the contemplated new building.

A Parish Meeting was called for **July 29, 1895** by the Rector. Mr. Copes submitted for inspection two plans of the proposed new building to be erected on the East end of the Church lot, and reported estimates as follows:

\$2183.00 for a building 30 x 60 feet with two stories, four rooms in the upper story. \$1560.00 for a building 20 x 45 ft with one story only. It was decided that the proposed building would be 30 x 60 feet. This building was separate from the main church structure.

At the November 4, 1895 Vestry meeting, J. M. Boyd reported on the subject of help to look after the heating and to keep the church and

- HAVING MY SAY - DREAMS AND VISIONS

I see great things in the future for Saint Mary's. Our beautiful historic church is being given a new life. I know we are all excited about the day we will be back in the nave to worship. One dream for Saint Mary's is for **Soup's On** to be able to reach many more in the community. We currently serve about 12-18 in Lacy Hall each month and we are spreading our good will to the Pants Factory Apartments. I dream of the day that we will find the money (either through grants, donations, or fund raisers) to address the costly repairs that Lacy Hall needs and deserves to have done. If we all come together, each in our own way, we can make these dreams a reality.

Barb Zumwalde

Annual Meetings (continued)

Lecture Room clean, the cost of which will be about \$6.00 per month. After a discussion on the subject of raising funds for current expenses, it was resolved that a Parish Meeting be called for Monday evening, November 11. On the appointed night the meeting was called to order at 7 o'clock and there being but six ladies and the Secretary present, it was adjourned at 7 o'clock. How disappointing!

1907 - "At the Easter Monday Parish Meeting the old wardens and vestry were re-elected and one new member added. The treasurer reported all bills paid, with a small surplus in the treasury. St. Mary's Guild reported about \$600 in hand toward the erection of a parish house. Altogether St. Mary's had a most joyous Easter, and is a fair condition to undertake the work before her."

1909 - In reporting on the Annual Congregational Meeting held Easter Monday, **April 12, 1909**, the Secretary, L. Nelson, stated, "On motion of G. B. Beecher a rising vote of thanks was extended to the ladies of the Parish for their good work in raising funds for liquidating indebtedness on Parish House." As far as can be ascertained in consulting Vestry minutes this is the only official reference to the building of the Parish House.

1922 - Annual Meeting minutes of **February 14, 1922** indicate the election of G. B. Beecher as Senior Warden and John Matthews as Junior Warden. Those elected to Vestry membership were L. B. Boyd, N. E. Chaney, Karl Doebele, W. M. Hoyt, Daniel Morgan, C. D. Wright, C. M. Lacy and J. G. Pfarr.

1923 - The next action noted in Parish records is the Annual Meeting on **January 8, 1923** at which the same officers were elected.

1924 - It is of interest that the treasurer's report to the Annual Meeting held **January 7, 1924** shows total receipts of \$4,928 and total expenses of \$2,130.

1925 - The Annual Meeting of St. Mary's was held on **January 5, 1925**, and George B. Beecher was elected Senior Warden and John Matthews, Junior Warden. The eight additional members of the Vestry elected were L. B. Boyd, Dan Morgan, Dr. C. D. Wright, Dr. W. M. Hoyt, N. E. Chaney, Karl Doebele, E. B. Ayres, Jr. and C. M. Lacy. Mr. Matthews and Mr. Lacy were elected as delegates to Diocesan Convention, and Mr. Morgan and Dr. Wright as alternates. Mrs. Phelps and Mrs. Morgan were elected as delegates, and Mrs. Hinkle (later Mrs. Krebs) and Mrs. Lacy as alternates to the House of Church Women. This body was the diocese's first response to the 1920 granting of women's suffrage, and it was not until 1928 that women were eligible to serve as delegates to Diocesan Convention.

1926 - The 1926 Annual Parish Meeting elected John Matthews Senior Warden and C. M. Lacy as Junior Warden. Vestry members re-elected were Ayres, Boyd, Chaney, Doebele, Hoyt, Morgan, and Wright, and D. J. McAdow was elected to fill out the membership of the Vestry. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Lacy were selected as delegates to the House of Church Women, and Mrs. Matthews and Miss Mildred Morgan were named alternates. Diocesan Convention delegates elected were Dr. Wright and Mr. Matthews; Dr. Hoyt and Mr. Chaney were selected as alternates.

1927 - The 1927 Annual Parish Meeting re-elected the Wardens, Mr. Matthews and Mr. Lacy, and the Vestrymen, except Mr. McAdow, with Lang B. Lemon elected in his place. Mr. Lemon, however, declined to serve, and Dr. W. M. Hoyt was elected to fill the vacancy.

1928 - While the nominating committee did not present the names of any women as candidates for Wardens or Vestry, two women, Mrs. Hoyt and Mrs. Phelps, were elected as Convention Delegates. This seems to be a rather quick response to the very recent 1927 Convention action allowing for female delegates.

1929 - The elections at the 1929 Annual Parish Meeting showed again that the parish was taking seriously the 1927 Diocesan Convention's action to make women eligible to serve as Vestry members and Convention Delegates. Nominees for Vestry included Mrs. George B. Beecher, and she was elected as the first woman to serve on St. Mary's Vestry. Also elected as Convention Delegates were Mrs. C. D. Wright and Mrs. W. M. Hoyt, and among Alternate Delegates Mrs. Dan Morgan and Miss Mildred Morgan were elected. "The treasurer was authorized to order 150 copies of the new Prayer Book at a cost of 25 cents each." This is in 1929, very shortly after the 1928 Prayer Book was available for purchase. How refreshing for any who experienced the often painful process of accepting the 1979 Prayer Book, although the acceptance of the "new Prayer Book" in Hillsboro was not an extremely traumatic experience.

1932 - In his report to the Annual Meeting in January 1932, Treasurer Maurice W.

Hoyt made the following comment concerning stewardship of St. Mary's: "Just a word relative to the Annual Canvass. There are about one hundred thirty-five names on our list this year and up to this time but fifty-seven subscriptions have been returned with a total subscription of about \$2,250. This will not be enough for the Vestry to contract for the continuance of the work in the present way. Unless additional subscriptions are forthcoming it will be necessary for some curtailment of expenses to be made. Do you want that? Even some subscriptions already made might be increased without severe sacrifice." John Matthews was re-elected Senior Warden and C. M. Lacy was also re-elected Junior Warden. The incumbent Vestry members were nominated along with Eugene Gross, L. B. Boyd, D. J. McAdow and Frank Ashmore. Elected were: Daniel Morgan, N. E. Chaney, L. E. Shirley, Carl Doebele, Dr. W. M. Hoyt, Dr. C. D. Wright, Eugene Gross, and L. B. Boyd.

1933 - The treasurer's report to the 1933 Annual Parish Meeting held **January 5**, includes this note: "Particular attention is due to one item not included in either income or expenses. During the year a leak developed in the roof of the Parish House that resulted in part of the plaster falling off. After this was repaired the patch spoiled the appearance of this room that had so recently been put in such fine shape. Mr. Keys and his sons Samuel and Richard took it upon themselves to refinish the painting and restored the room to its former beauty. Our thanks are certainly due them as no charge was made for this work, but it was given as a contribution to the Parish." (Samuel Keys here referred to subsequently was ordained and became Rector of St. Mary's Church, Waynesville, and later founding Rector of St. Simon's Church, Arlington Heights, Illinois.) The election of officers at the 1933 annual meeting resulted in the re-election of John Matthews as Sr. Warden and C. M. Lacy as Jr. Warden. The incumbent Vestry members were nominated for re-election along with Charles Ayers, E. B. Ayres, Jr., N. L. Keys, Frank Ashmore and D. J. McAdow. Of these nominees Ayres and Dana McAdow were elected along with Dr. W. M. Hoyt, Eugene Gross, Loyd E. Shirley, N. E. Chaney, Dr. C. D. Wright, Karl Doebele and Daniel Morgan. Elected as Delegates to Diocesan Convention were Mr. and Mrs. Lacy, Eugene Gross and Leslie George, and Alternates chosen were Dr. and Mrs. Hoyt, Mrs. Daniel Morgan and Mrs. Shirley.

1934 - At the Parish Meeting **January 4, 1934** Daniel Morgan was elected to serve as Senior Warden, succeeding John Matthews, and C. M. Lacy was elected Junior Warden. At the end of his treasurer's report to that meeting, Dr. Hoyt added, "There are certain matters that deserve comment. There remain unpaid of the subscriptions for the year 1933 the very small sum of \$62.25 for local work and \$7.40 for the general church work. Quite a part of this will be paid in the next few days. This record is quite remarkable, especially under such circumstances as those of the past year, and reflects the devotion of the members of St. Mary's Parish."

1938 - The annual Parish Meeting was held on **January 11, 1938** with Sr. Warden C. M. Lacy presiding. Elections named Mr. Lacy to continue as Sr. Warden and Eugene Gross as Jr. Warden. Elected from a slate of eleven nominees were Vestry members McAdow, Shirley, George, Wright, Doebele, Gavey, Ayres, Upp and Chaney. Sr. Warden Lacy was authorized to draft a letter of appreciation to Dr. W. M. Hoyt for "the valuable services he had rendered to St. Mary's for many years in the capacity of Vestryman and Church Treasurer." Delegates to Diocesan Convention elected were Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Gross, Mr. Leslie George and Charlotte Krebs, and Mrs. D. J. McAdow and Mrs. Charles Ayers were named as Alternates.

1939 - The Annual Parish Meeting of 1939 elected Mr. Cliff Lacy as Senior Warden and Dr. C. D. Wright as Junior Warden. The following men were named to the Vestry by the meeting: Dr. W. M. Hoyt, Loyd Shirley, Gene Gross, Paul Upp, Ed. Ayres, Jr., John Chaney and



FEBRUARY
Happy Birthday!
1-Feb Deanna Flinn
2-Feb Jennie Harner
5-Feb John Joy
7-Feb BJ Gee
27-Feb Charles Everhart



The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St.
Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-2043

SERVICE TIME

Sunday - 9 am

28 JANUARY
ANNUAL
MEETING
with Brunch



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** and the new Ohio Humanities documentary about the Lincoln School Story is scheduled to be aired in Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus (schedule below).

The documentary has been greatly expanded to fit the time requirements for airing on PBS and also to include more national significance of what took place right here in Hillsboro. Andrea Torrice, the film maker really did a beautiful job on the current film. We encourage you to watch and contact your friends to watch. If you are not familiar with the story, in the 1950s, after the Brown v Board of Education decision by the US Supreme Court, the mothers of Hillsboro's Lincoln School elementary students requested immediate admittance to the white schools but was refused. This documentary follows that fight and the two year march by the mothers and the children. We believe this to be the longest sustained march for integration in the United States.

5 FEB (Mon)	- 10 pm	on 34 HD
6 FEB (Tue)	- 1:30 am	on 34 HD
6 FEB (Tue)	- 10 pm	on 34 PLUS
9 FEB (Fri)	- 9 pm	on 16 HD
16 FEB (Fri)	- 11 pm	on 48 HD
17 FEB (Sat)	- 11:30 pm	on 16 HD
18 FEB (Sun)	- 1 pm	on 34 HD
20 FEB (Tue)	- 9 pm	on 34 HD
21 FEB (Wed)	- 1:30 am	on 34 HD
21 FEB (Wed)	- 9 pm	on 34 PLUS
24 FEB (Sat)	- 3 am	on 34 HD
26 FEB (Mon)	- 5 pm	on 48 HD

**check listings to verify times and dates*
16 - WPTD (ThinkTV), Dayton
34 - WOSU, Columbus
48 - WCET, Cincinnati

Annual Meetings (continued)

Karl Doebele. A Vestry meeting immediately after the parish meeting Ed B. Ayres, Jr. was elected Treasurer and Jack Chaney, Clerk.

1940 - The first Annual Parish Meeting of the new decade was held on **January 10, 1940**, with 19 members of St. Mary's in attendance. Mr. Lacy was elected as Senior Warden and Dr. C. D. Wright was elected Junior Warden. The Vestry at a meeting after the Parish Meeting named Ed. B. Ayres, Jr. as Treasurer and Jack Chaney also continued as Clerk of the Vestry. In the Rector's report for 1939 Mr. Watkins noted that he had made 348 Pastoral visits, preached 58 sermons, and he added: "The Results - God only knows."

1941 - The Annual Parish Meeting in **January 1941** reelected the incumbent wardens, Cliff Lacy, Senior Warden and Dr. C. D. Wright, Junior Warden. Elected as Vestry members were Ed. B. Ayres, Jr., Karl Doebele, John Chaney, Allen Syders, Paul Upp, Leslie George, Eugene Gross and Hiram Blackmore.

1942 - During the 1942 Parish Meeting Mr. Watkins announced that he would accept a reduction of \$495.19 for his salary of 1941, which would clear the treasurer's books without a deficit for the year. He also offered to accept a voluntary reduction of \$600 for the year 1942 (making his 1942 salary \$1800). Members attending the meeting gave Mr. Watkins a rising vote of thanks for his generous offer.

1943 - At the 1943 Annual Meeting Treasurer Ed. B. Ayres, Jr. reported a balance of \$12.67, adding the note, "There are no outstanding bills, and the above balance represents not only a self supporting parish for the year, but a clearing of the indebtedness of three years standing."

1946 - The Rector's Report for 1946 gives a good picture of the state of the parish and includes the following information under the heading "Congregation":

Baptized members -- 172, Families associated with the church -- 55, Number of communicants on Parish Register-- 148

Of this number 43 may be described as nominally, sentimentally, or loosely related to the church, some of which are resident, and some non-resident. In a report made to the diocese, 18 of these have been omitted, thus making the number of communicants in good, fair or poor standing - 130

Under the heading "Services": Holy Communion services on Sunday and week-days -- 32, Other services such as Morning and Evening Prayer etc -- 47, Total number of Public Services -- 79

1947 - The Rector's Report for the 1947 Parish Meeting included a note that there were 9 Bible Class meetings in private homes.

1949 -At the Parish Meeting of **January 11, 1949** a report was given by Martha Chaney, secretary of the Young Adult Group of St. Mary's. Mrs. Chaney stated that in October of 1948 twenty-one young people gathered for a buffet dinner in St. Mary's Parish House. It was noted that the purpose of the gathering was to organize the young adults of St. Mary's into a group, the purpose of which was to develop a study of Christian ideals and topics relative to Christian living. A social program was to be included in each meeting in the hope that young people would look at the Parish House as a place for social gathering.