



The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

January 2020

ISAIAH 43:18-19

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a good holiday season with family and friends. As we move into the new year, I want St Mary's to think of new things. How is St. Mary's moving into the future? How can the church best serve the community and the people of Hillsboro? Time is now for the church to engage in a new way of being. Where are we spiritually? God is with us to make the way in the wilderness and make the desert fertile once again. If we recognize that God is at work here already, we can move

into a realm of the kingdom present among us. If we recognize the Kingdom is here already we then decide how best to live into the Kingdom. Christ's Kingdom is one of peace and justice for all people. Perhaps we focus on this. How do we make St. Mary's a place that the community sees as a place of peace and justice? I suppose the first question to answer is, what is peace and justice? We tend to throw these words around assuming we know their meaning, because they are words that are close to us, words that roll off our tongue with relative ease, but what do they mean for St. Mary's. These are the questions to ponder and fulfill this new year. Ponder and fulfill, because we can think about fulfilling them till the cows come home, but until we put action behind our pondering we are just sitting still. Action requires everyone to give of their time, talent and treasure to move this fulfillment forward. You can't plough a field by just showing up. God is indeed doing a new thing here at St. Mary's. God is moving to make a way in this wilderness we are in, God is making rivers in our desert, how will we respond? Will we respond to God's call in the same old way we did if former times, or continue the

new way of doing and being and creating that we have accomplished recently? The efforts in baking for the concerts, the overwhelming support for the river mariners, the tremendous donation to the Good Samaritans, the rise in attendance, all signal a momentum to greater things in the life of the Kingdom. Thank you for all that you have done, and let us spring forth in this new year, this new time. Respond and fulfill, the Kingdom of God is now.

Peace and All Good,
George+

Thank You

Did you bake cookies for Music At St. Mary's? Did you bake cookies for the Mariners of the Rivers? Did you help decorate the church? Fill the candles? Provide for Brunch? Provide for Coffee Hour? How about taking time to clean the pews out of bulletins, etc., after a service? Did you provide music for Music At St. Mary's? Did you attend concerts? How about helping a visitor understand the bulletin and the service? Maybe you smiled at a visitor or greeted someone attending one of our concerts? *(continued on page 3)*

Music at St. Mary's



Concert Series 2019-2020

Next concert in March

Watch for details!



VESTRY

Bob Lowell, Sr Warden
Betsy Miller, Jr Warden
Sandy Ferrell
Judy Franklin

Feel free to contact any Vestry member with questions, concerns, ideas, etc.



No brunch in January due to Annual Meeting

Brunch is always a good idea

NEW in the library!

BOOKS

about 100 of them on many subjects such as commentaries and devotionals!

22 December Sermon



At last we stand on the threshold of the incarnation - the birth of our Lord. I've read that that means we can start singing Christmas carols but if you were here when The Rev. John Carson was here that was not true, however we will sing an appropriate carol as our recessional. We are celebrating what our New Testament lesson is telling us - the introduction of the baby Jesus. And Matthew at the very beginning of his writings tells us about the genealogy of this new baby. For Matthew the birth of Jesus is a life changing event - the fulfillment of

God's intentions for the world that he has been patiently and continuously working out through the children of Abraham on down. The birth of this child signifies nothing less than a whole new world.

Now Mary was engaged to Joseph and being a righteous man and learning Mary was with child, he resolves to dismiss her quietly. However, an angel sent by God reveals to Joseph that Mary's pregnancy is actually none other than the work of the spirit. God is doing an unprecedented new thing here. The Angel instructs Joseph to join himself with Mary as his wife. Joseph without any indecision or resistance, without hesitation or fear, immediately responds to the Angels directive.

Isn't Joseph's response supposed to be an example to all of us as to how we should respond to Jesus and his good news. Surely Matthew has put righteous Joseph center stage in order to encourage the rest of us later followers of Jesus to respond to Jesus and his good news in the same fashion as Joseph. We are to join in with what God is doing in the birth of this special child.

Matthew calls Jesus Emmanuel which means God with us, We often think of that phrase as associated with God's loving providential care of us in our times of need. It is good to know that in our times of need or distress that God is with us, beside us to comfort and support us in every way.

This time of year it is typical to receive Christmas cards from friends and family and they may depict a picture of the manger with Mary and the shepherds and the wise men but rarely from the point of view of Joseph. And yet we learn from silent Joseph. He says nothing but he is introduced as a righteous man. For Israel that was a man that followed the right way - the right path. He knew the law and followed it. And as a righteous man he knew how to be a responsible man - treating Mary justly.

So this Sunday God sends us a Christmas greeting. It doesn't feature the quiet placid baby Jesus lying in a manger. Nor does it feature the adoring serene Virgin Mary watching the babe in a manger. This Sunday, three days away from Christmas, we are greeted by the story of Joseph - silent Joseph pushed out onto the stage of God's grand pageant of redemption, Joseph who, with his betrothed wife, Mary, the first disciples.

This Christmas let our righteous Joseph show us the way.

Jim Heathcote

The January 1917 diocesan magazine included the following report of happenings at St. Mary's, Hillsboro:

BEAUTIFUL CHANCEL AND ALTAR GIVEN BY RECTOR AND MEMORIAL WINDOW BY REV. MR. MCKENZIE

"The congregation of St. Mary's worshipped Sunday morning for the first time within the restored church. All were solemnly delighted and most grateful to the faithful rector for his untiring and constant personal supervision of the work.

"The rector, Rev. Louis E. Durr, gave the inspiring and artistic altar in loving memory of his sainted parents. The reredos, the panels and the dome--in fact all parts show the touch and finish of true artists and the reverence of a godly son for worthy parents, and his inheritance of worthy and ability from them.

"Rev. John H. McKenzie, of Howe, Indiana, presented the singularly expressive and appropriate St. Cecilia window in memory of his sister, Mrs. Ida McKenzie Hammond, who will be recalled by many as his co-worker when in charge of the Conservatory of Music here. Though not Episcopalians, they gave their service to the choir; and though there was no rector, but a lay reader at that time, they faithfully and loyally gave of their best. They were justly popular, and St. Mary's is very happy to be the recipient of this artistic token of love from brother to sister. The walls are finished in soft gray, and the light reflected from them gives an added luster to the memorial windows.



THANK YOU *(continued from page 1)*

Maybe you sent birthday greetings out to parishioners? Did you visit a sick or shut-in? Did you send a card? Maybe you arranged for altar flowers? Perhaps you served on the altar or greeted church members as they arrived for worship? You may have seen a scrap of paper on the floor, picked it up and tossed it into the trash? Did you hear a tidbit of gossip, but made it stop with you because it wouldn't improve and lift up our parish?

These are just a few of the countless things we all do to make St. Mary's a welcoming, warm and loving environment. If you did something not on this list to improve and make us better, or if you were the one who did one of these many tasks, THANK YOU!

If you find that you haven't found a task that's perfect for you, please keep looking! We all need to work together to make St. Mary's shine!



SERVERS Altar Guild: Carolinn Shibley & Amy Vogel

JAN	LECTOR	CHALICE	ACOLYTES & CRUCIFER	TORCHES	USHERS	INTERCESSOR
5	Connie Reynolds	Connie Reynolds	Richard Davis Dallas Harner	Rob Harner Ty Harner	Andrea Harner Shirley Gilliam	Carolinn Shibley
12	Jim Heathcote	Jim Heathcote	Charles Everhart Rob Harner	Ty Harner Dallas Harner	Carol & John Joy	Betty Heathcote
19	Jennie Harner	Sandy Ferrell	Connie Reynolds Dallas Harner	Ty Harner Rob Harner	Richard Davis Charles Everhart	Deanna Flinn
26	Lynn Lowell	Bob Lowell	Connie Reynolds Rob Harner	Ty Harner Dallas Harner	Carolinn Shibley Deanna Flinn	Karen Vlaskamp

If you have an emergency on your assigned Sunday, either find someone to take your place, or call Deanna Flinn.

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

Rev. Louis Durr *(continued)*

At the morning service sweetly sung and appropriate music was given, and a strong and helpful sermon by the rector.

In addition to the regular prayers the loved and honored rector presented the restored edifice to the Lord, asking his blessing and acceptance of it, and then rededicated it to God's service in prayer. The appeal for God's blessing upon the tributes of memory given by son and brother was touching and heartfelt, and a solemn awe fell upon the congregation, who joined in a united response to his appeal.

"God's presence was felt and a common belief that God's approval and blessing were ours invested each member of dear old St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Hillsboro. A.H.M."

from The Story of St. Mary's Episcopal Church



**Can you name
these ladies?**

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Information

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

The Rev. George Sherrill

The Diocese of Southern Ohio
The Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal, Diocesan Bishop

WEB SITE:

www.smehillsboro.weebly.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP and SUNDAY
SCHOOL 10:00 am