

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

January 2022

PILGRIM PRIEST'S PONDERINGS

IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK...

MOVING ON . . .

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" – Ecclesiastes 3:1

"For this reason [the generations of faithful before you] I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline" – 2 Timothy 1:6-7.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I announced at the Vestry meeting on Sunday, December 19, that my last Sunday with you will be Sunday, February 27, 2022. Moving on sooner than I expected is the result of a new prompting from God (and confirmed by my cadre of prayer warriors). I hope to be able to announce my next destination in the next week or so.

I will miss being with you in worship (both live and online) and value the friendships I have with many of you. We have journeyed together for the last eighteen months through the thick of the COVID-19 epidemic. What I see in Hillsboro is a congregation ready and willing to burst forth in the fire of the Holy Spirit. I pray that God grants the grace for this to occur sooner than later, and I pray that you and the Diocese are able to discern the next clergy person who will be part of that effort.

I will have more to say during January and February during worship, in Vestry meetings, in the February Newsletter article and at the Annual Meeting.

I love you and will keep you in my prayers!

Your fellow Ambassador in Christ,

David+

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its
glowing....*



The song, "Pass It On," written over 50 years ago by Kurt Kaiser, continues to be a favorite of many. It always reminds me of the story of The Lonely Ember in which a pastor visits a man who had stopped attending services. The man welcomed the pastor in and they sat by his fireplace enjoying the warmth. Without words, the pastor took the fireplace tools and separated one of the embers from the main part of the fire. Before long, the ember lost its flame and finally lost its glow and lay dead on the hearth. Before leaving, the pastor picked up the ember and returned it to the center of the fire where it again caught and began burning brightly. The pastor reached the door and the man broke the silence by thanking the pastor for his visit and his "fiery sermon" and promised to be back in church the following Sunday.

Where are you in this story? Are you the ember who was separated from the fire? Are you the pastor who saw the wisdom of the moment →

VESTRY

Vestry Report

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

Newsletter editor—John Glaze
Submissions to THE RED DOOR are welcomed. © items cannot be published without consent of the owner.



*This
 “bothersome pandemic”
 has put our beloved
 Coffee Hour in limbo for the
 foreseeable future.*

Last month's child!

Last month: Sam Harner!

Best wishes to you all for the coming year, and I hope you all have the time and opportunity to enjoy family and give thanks this Christmas Holiday. Please note we are having a Christmas Eve service with music starting at 3:30 and it will be great to see you there and share in the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Thank you all for your patience and support during this year, and I hope to be able to communicate and share our excitement about the coming year. I believe this will be an important year for our church, as we look to the future and continue our efforts to rebuild, restore, and renew all things associated with St. Mary's Hillsboro. We have worked diligently to establish more productive relationships with the Diocese; including getting some assistance for funding major building improvements that must be done for St. Mary's. The Vestry has approved an estimated \$248,000 in repairs and replacements that need done to our church. The improvements include a properly sized and installed HVAC system for the main sanctuary, pew removal, HVAC duct installation under the floor, a new floor in the sanctuary, exterior masonry, roof, flashing, and plaster repairs in the Sanctuary and Lacy Hall side of the building, as well as some smaller repair items.

Our interviews with local organizations regarding community needs is going well, and we will report our on that project soon. Our annual meeting will be held in February; if anyone is interested in serving on the Vestry, we would like to replace Sandy Ferrell, who recently moved to the state of Washington. A huge shout-out to Sandy for her work on behalf of our church. We will also be starting “Sandy's Sack Lunch” once a month beginning in January of 2022. A free sack lunch will be provided one Saturday a month, please see Maggie or call her if you want to help.

I would also ask you all to please look over the pledge letter and do your best to return the pledge form as soon as you can. We understand there are reasons in recent years where folks may have been reluctant to complete and turn in a pledge form. As noted above, we believe we are entering a new era at St. Mary's and good planning, based on good information, will help us speed up this process. Your completed pledge form is important to us in planning and budgeting for the coming year. In closing, a Merry Christmas to you all!

John Joy, Senior Warden

and used it to encourage the man to “return to the fire” of the congregation? Are you part of the body of fire, finding your home in the warmth of the congregation's glow?

Think about the “fiery sermon” given by the pastor. He used no words and saw no value in explaining and dissecting his actions. He was wise enough to know that the simple demonstration would be enough to preach more loudly than any words could; that fault-finding and finger-pointing would achieve no such response.

The oft-quoted “*Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.*” is usually attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, but most research shows he never uttered those words. The sentiment is the same, regardless of who said it. Other phrases such as “Actions speak louder than words.” or the poem often quoted by Bob Hodson carry the same message. By the pastor's simple example, he showed the man that his place was with the Body of Christ where he could receive comfort and love. It shows us that we must be that fire which folks encounter when they enter into our midst, when they see us at the grocery store or the library. Be the hands and feet of Christ here on earth!

Opportunities to Love Your Neighbor

SANDY'S FREE LUNCH



Plans are coming together for **SANDY'S FREE LUNCH**, a new program we are starting to feed the hungry. Named for Sandy Ferrell (it was her idea), it will take place one Saturday per month and is headed up by Barb Zumwalde. Maggie is signed up to help as well as Charles, but how about YOU? Won't you be God's hands here on earth to help prepare this simple lunch to help fill a belly?

SAMARITAN OUTREACH SERVICES

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: Size 3 and up
Laundry detergent

Paper goods:
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Women's Sanitary Napkins



If you would prefer to mail a monetary donation:
Samaritan Outreach Services
PO Box 242
Hillsboro, OH 45133

HOME COMMUNION

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*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and these on our Parish prayer list: Susan Price, Herschel Hook, Nancy Orth, Mary Reynolds, Jim Shirkey, Maxine McGrath, Sharon Kamm, Bob & Dorothy Hodson, Susan Bright, Dan Fisher, **the family of Pam Fenner Phillips, Tammy Wilson, Elmer Highley, Randall Jones, Brooke Lawson, Preston, Bob Lowell, the patients and staff at Georgetown Veterans Home as well as those serving in our armed forces: Macy Lyle, Henry Sherrill, Jaden Chin-Franz, 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.*

Where's David?



Rev. David is still here, but as of March 1, he will be relocating to the church you see above. St. Francis Episcopal Church in Springboro as part time Priest In Charge.

I was unable to find any history of this parish, but from the photographs on their website, they appear to be a thriving and active group of folks.

We will be having a Good-Bye Coffee Hour for David in February and he will have much more to say before he leaves us, so STAY TUNED!



January
4—Jim Price
12—Carol Joy
16—Lynn Lowell
16—Margaret Lyons
29—Jim Gee

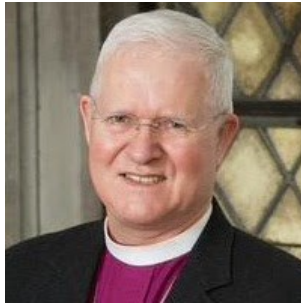
The Red Door

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



TAKE NOTE!

Bishop Provisional
Wayne Smith
will be visiting
St. Mary's
informally in
January, 2022



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. 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