

# The Red Door

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

January 2024

### RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR



*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)*

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"*

*And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:1-3)*

I have been thinking a lot lately about the way we treat our church spaces (sacred space) and the way that we behave while we are in them. The Episcopal Church has a statement shared across the whole denomination (which does not mean that it is true everywhere). That statement is: All Are Welcome! What does this really mean, both for us and for those who we encounter through their presence in "our" (God's) sacred space?

This month I have been thinking particularly about children, although this applies to anyone who does not conform to our understanding of "proper church behavior." I hear people talking about how children need to respect church space. To those that say this, it means that children should remain seated as much as possible, stay quiet, and pay attention to what is going on. In other words, they should behave like little adults. Then I look at what Jesus said about children ... let them come to me ... adults should become like children .... According to Jesus' words, we are doing it exactly backwards. We adults should be moving around – even running. We should be making joyful noise (the bible tells us to do this several times). We should be questioning everything over and over



### PARISH READING

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



#### Making Outsiders Feel like Insiders

*By Molly Phinney Baskette On September 16, 2015 Leading Ideas*

Growing churches are churches that have learned that God intends for us to be a people for others. The church needs more than its pastor or senior lay leader to advocate for people who are not there yet. Enlist the opinion of relative newcomers often. Have them speak to their experience of the process of assimilation — positive and negative — with the wider church leadership so that you can find out how you are doing, and what the obstacles to entry are.

I've suggested asking a trusted friend or colleague from outside the church — preferably someone who is not really familiar with church cultural language and rituals — to attend worship as a "mystery worshiper." Ask your friend questions like: "What was confusing?" "What feelings came up for you?" "When did you feel included/excluded?" "Did anything we did seem clubby or unintentionally exclusionary?" Be prepared for honest answers, and notice if you get defensive when you get negative feedback. This kind of criticism can be wildly helpful — if you take it seriously, don't minimize or explain it away, and consider making changes.

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## VESTRY

## Parish Reading *(continued)*

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

Perhaps you will hear that the way community prayers are prayed made the visitor feel left out. What in your congregation might feel like a warm and cozy time to catch up on news, might feel to a newcomer like they are eavesdropping on an uncomfortably intimate moment, or are just plain left out of the conversation. The message offered by your well-intentioned, close-knit congregation is, “Our prayers show others how much we love each other, how much we are like a family. Maybe we’ll love you like this someday.” But the message received is probably quite different.

Let me ask you: Would you go to four or five parties in a row where the same people talked to each other about things they knew about, and while people said “Hi!” in a friendly way, nobody made an effort to explain or really include you in the conversation? After the first party or two, unless you are a mega-extrovert with a bulletproof ego, you would likely just stay home in your jammies.

There are ways to be intimate while also making outsiders feel like insiders. A skilled worship leader will, in sermon, prayers, and announcements, give plenty of context, explain inside jokes in a way that doesn’t kill the punch line, and otherwise bring everybody along.

That said, there are some structures — coffee hours, prayers of the people, passing the peace — that are natural soft entry points for newbies. If these structures are too hard in your congregation, no matter how soft they seem to you, you might need to forego your own preferences for the others who are about to walk through your door.

This article is an excerpt from Molly’s book *Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead, and Yours Can, Too*, © 2014, used by permission from The Pilgrim Press. It is available from Cokesbury and Amazon <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/making-outsiders-feel-like-insiders/>

## SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

The year is rapidly drawing to a close, as is my service as Senior Warden at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church. I previously shared a number of my “year-end” comments in my November report, so I will spare the reader much of what was already covered. I would like to express gratitude again for the generosity of Carlene Philips. Without her generous bequest, our path forward would have been much more difficult. I would also like to acknowledge the significant amount of time Charles Everhart has invested in our church the past two years. Without his knowledge and experience, the navigation of the numerous building issues would have been a much bigger challenge than it already was. Rich Davis has also provided time and expertise in assisting us in improving the finances.

While challenges still exist, we have made amazing headway in working through and improving both our financial situation and a wide variety of building problems. We have much to be thankful for and I hope you join me in seeing how the Holy Spirit is alive and well at St. Mary’s. We were blessed to have the services of Rev. Terri Thornton for over a year, whose support was invaluable in walking beside us during a difficult time. We are blessed to have Rev. Warren on board and I look forward to his support and guidance during the coming years. We have new and returning members who have stepped up to support meaningful and important work of the church through service. Altar Guild, Vestry, Soups On, Samaritan Outreach and others I am likely overlooking are all seeing re-kindled activity and participation. Let us all keep working together to continue to build and grow St. Mary’s. With God’s help, anything is possible!

*John Joy*  
 Senior Warden

## RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR *(CONTINUED)*

again. We should be getting up and trying to see what is so special about that altar area.

This is how we enter the Kingdom of Heaven! Not by insisting that others behave just like us, but by stepping into their shoes and behaving like them! When we make decisions for our church families, we need to be looking not at what makes us comfortable, but rather how our discomfort might be making someone else, who doesn’t yet know Jesus, comfortable.

*Rev Warren Huestis*

By Edgar A. Guest

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;  
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;  
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.  
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind  
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me  
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.  
And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today  
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.

One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;  
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.  
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,  
For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear.  
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,  
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.

*This poem is in the public domain.*

Many of you knew Bob Hodson. I have heard him quote this poem many times (always from memory). As I write this on 13 Dec, just last night in our Advent Circle meeting, we discussed this poem and many had never heard it before. I wanted to share it with you for you to consider.

Edgar Albert Guest (20 August 1881 – 5 August 1959) was born in Birmingham, England but moved to Detroit, Michigan when Edgar was approximately 10 years old. He became known as the People's Poet. His poems often had an inspirational and optimistic view of everyday life.

Another of Bob's favorite poems by Edgar Guest was "It Couldn't Be Done." That poem tells of a man who was told that the thing he wanted to do "couldn't be done," but, takes off his hat and coat and puts his mind to doing it.....and does! How often has this rung true with you? Naysayers tell you that you can't do this or that. Instead of believing them, you simply get busy and do the thing, "that couldn't be done!"



## A RECTOR FOR ST M.

In the process of bringing an Episcopal clergyman to organize a congregation in Hillsboro, William H. Bayard is again seen as a leader of those persons seeking to have an Episcopal parish in Hillsboro. As Mr. Bayard is, in a sense, a "mystery man," we encounter two other "mystery men" in Cincinnati, who were very interested in having an Episcopal Church in Hillsboro. These two gentlemen were both part of the newly-founded congregation of St. John's Church, Cincinnati, which was established in 1849, the third Episcopal congregation in Cincinnati, along with Christ Church, founded in 1817 by Philander Chase, and St. Paul's, organized in 1828. The Rev. William N. Nicholson was Rector of St. John's from its founding in 1849; and James J. Butler was a lay member of St. John's.

There is no indication in diocesan records of the 1850s that either Mr. Nicholson or Mr. Butler was a diocesan officer or member of the Standing Committee or Missionary Committee of the Diocese of Ohio. As Rector, the Rev. Mr. Nicholson was in a leadership position of St. John's, but the name of James J. Butler appears only three times in Diocesan Convention journals. Butler was a lay delegate from St. John's to the Diocesan Convention of 1858 at Trinity Church, Newark, and he again represented St. John's in 1866 in Massillon. Butler was appointed as a Lay Reader for St. John's by Bishop McIlvaine in 1869, but he is not listed as a Warden of St. John's for any year from 1850 through 1870. Vestry members are not listed in Diocesan Convention journals, so it is possible that Butler was a member of the Vestry.

It may well be that as St. John's in Cincinnati had only recently been organized (1849) and had just been through the "search process," the Rev. Mr. Nicholson and Mr. J. J. Butler might have felt a special affinity with persons trying to organize a parish in Hillsboro. It is also possible that there were mutual friends/acquaintances who were the Lord's agents in helping St. Mary's, Hillsboro, come into being, but if so, these were not mentioned

**JANUARY**  
**Happy Birthday!**  
 4-Jan Jim Price  
 12-Jan Carol Joy  
 12-Jan Lynn Lowell  
 16-Jan Margaret Lyons  
 29-Jan Jim Gee  
 29-Jan Jim & BJ Gee  
 (Anniv)



# The Red Door

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

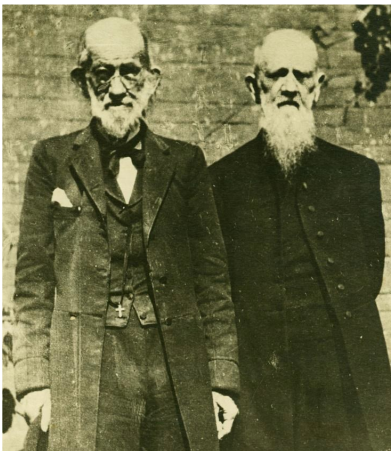
**SERVICE TIME**  
**Sunday - 9 am**



## A Rector for St. Mary's

in the correspondence we have seen. We will probably never know.

It seems as though the Rev. John Boyd of Marietta was the first choice for the task of organizing an Episcopal Church in Hillsboro. He seemed to be an obvious choice, since he was the younger brother of J. Milton Boyd, who, along with William H. Bayard was a leader of the group of Episcopalians in Hillsboro. In a reference in Smythe's A History of the Diocese of Ohio to 1918 it also becomes obvious why Bishop McIlvaine did not look favorably on whatever efforts were made to persuade John Boyd to leave Marietta to come to Hillsboro in 1853. Smythe writes, "St. Luke's, Marietta, though blessed with excellent Rectors and strong laymen, did not experience much growth until the Reverend John Boyd, just graduated from Bexley Hall, came in 1850, who was to continue as Rector of the parish for more than fifty years. Under him the Church made steady progress." (p. 301) It seems likely that the Lord needed John Boyd in Marietta to continue what became a distinguished rectorate, rather than to transfer him to Hillsboro only three years after beginning his first pastorate following his graduation from Bexley Hall in Gambier, the theological school of Kenyon College.



J. MILTON BOYD AND REV. JOHN BOYD (ABOUT 1880-81)

In his reminiscences dated Jan. 21, 1876, Prof. Isaac Sams, first Senior Warden of St. Mary's writes, "The Rev. Dr. Boyd of Marietta, whose brother John M. Boyd had recently settled in Hillsboro, becoming much interested in this condition of affairs (i.e., efforts to start an Episcopal Church at Hillsboro), applied to Bishop

McIlvaine, offering to work in this field and defray his own charges. But the Bishop had just appointed Rev. Noah H. Schenck to take charge of Hillsborough as well as of Troy, officiating at those places on alternate Sundays. Mr. Schenck entered on his mission with great spirit and determination, holding services in the court house."

We have correspondence which records what is now known of efforts to secure an Episcopal clergyman to serve in Hillsboro. These letters are among letters and papers discovered by John Carson in early 1991, and provide interesting and tantalizing glimpses into the early days of St. Mary's. The first letter from Mr. Bayard to the Rev. William N. Nicholson, who had been Rector of St. John's, Cincinnati since its organization in 1849, included the listing of the "subscription...for the services of a clergyman" referred to in the Rev. Richard Gray's 1853 Diocesan Convention Report.

The end result, as we know now, was that The Rev. Noah H. Schenck became the first rector of St. Mary's.

