

# The Red Door

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

June 2021

### PILGRIM PRIEST'S PONDERINGS

DAVID BAILEY

Dear Friends . . . particularly those of you who are members with me of the Body of Christ,

It is hard to believe, but June marks my twelfth month as your "Sunday Supply Priest." Like most of you, I am eagerly awaiting the lifting of COVID restrictions in our communities, our State, our Diocese, . . . and the Church of St. Mary's Hillsboro. As I told the Vestry a week ago, my hope is to assist you in whatever way I can to prepare for the next permanent clergy person. St. Mary's is blessed with strong lay leadership – both on Vestry and within the greater congregation – and I encourage all of you to support that leadership. Some important ways to support the leadership is to attend Sunday worship, to participate in the various outreach ministries, to give joyfully of time, talent and treasure to the ministry of our congregation, and to pray daily for the Holy Spirit to lead St. Mary's into the next phase of ministry.

John Joy convened an impromptu meeting of the parish leadership today to discuss the new guidelines

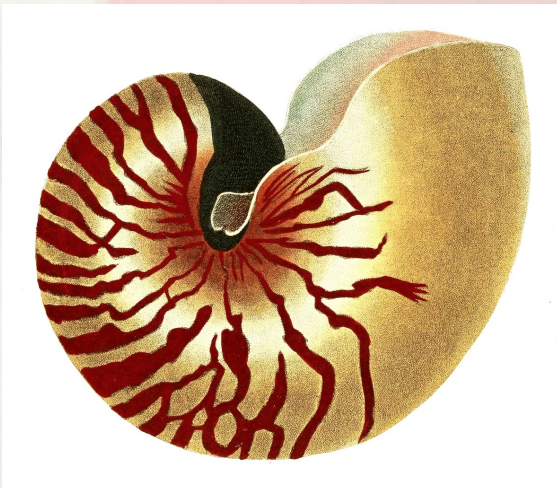
from the Diocese on Sunday worship. Many of the decisions for worship are now left up to each congregation Here is what was decided:

- ⇒ The wearing of facemasks is highly recommended. This recommendation extends to both singing and to coming forward for Holy Communion.
- ⇒ We now have permission to sing in worship, under the recommendation listed above.
- ⇒ We will continue to practice social distancing, with pews marked that are NOT to be used during worship.
- ⇒ Under a Diocesan directive, all but the Celebrant will receive Holy Communion under the form of Bread (Hosts) only. I am not sure when this particular directive will be lifted.

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve with you over the last eleven months, and I look forward to being with you in the summer months and beyond.

Your fellow Ambassador for Christ,

David+



*An African boy listened carefully as his missionary teacher explained why Christians give presents to each other on Christmas day. "The gift is an expression of our joy over the birth of Jesus and our love for each other," she said. When Christmas day came, the boy brought to the teacher a seashell of lustrous beauty. "Where did you ever find such a beautiful shell?" the teacher asked as she held the gift up to the light. The young boy told her that there was only one spot where such extraordinary shells could be found. When he named the place, a certain bay several miles away, the teacher was left speechless.*

*"Why...why, it's gorgeous...wonderful, but you shouldn't have gone all that way to get a gift for me." His eyes brightening, the boy answered, "Long walk part of gift."*

*-story is attributed to Norman Vincent Peale*

# 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.*



Who is this?



Answer next month

Here we are in May, and it appears summer is just about upon us. Perhaps by the time you read this the Diocese of Southern Ohio will have lifted most, if not all of the restrictions related to Covid 19. It seems like a long time ago that we were able to sing during the service, and enjoy fellowship and good food after the service! As noted in previous updates, please feel encouraged to return to worship in person and join us on Sundays! Please also be alert to information from Father David regarding the return of some additional and exciting activities he is planning for us.

Although it has been a frustrating journey so far, we do have some positive and future looking news to report regarding our building and its condition. There is a lot of information to communicate, so I will take these notes to update you completely on our HVAC issues. In the next month's newsletter, I will update you on the study we had completed by Reserve Advisors, a summary of the results, and what the results may mean long term for St. Mary's.

It's no secret our Sanctuary is cold in the winter. We were fortunate that Vestry member Charles Everhart last fall, during an attempt to get some routine maintenance done on our heating and cooling systems, discovered what appeared to be some poor workmanship and other issues. After 2-3 months of reviewing construction documents and having outside contractors and Diocesan consultants look at some of the work, it was clear that St. Mary's did not get what we paid for in several areas as contracted with the HVAC work. Attempts to reach the contractors got no response, so a legal firm in Cincinnati was contracted with to send a demand letter to the contractor. We eventually got a response and visit from the HVAC contractor in question, and his attorney and ours are trying to work out an agreeable settlement. The Vestry has been working on this for over five months now, and it will take more months before the issue is resolved. This is just one of several efforts that I pray demonstrates our efforts to improve communication among us, as well as demonstrate how seriously we take our responsibility to make sure that St. Mary's church is maintained properly and can continue to serve as a place where "the Lord can be worshiped in beautiful holiness" (my acknowledgement to Father David for this phrase, which I borrowed). We also just recently learned of the possibility that some of the floor joists under the sanctuary floor may need replaced. This may tie in with the HVAC corrections and improvements, but we are not sure at this point. With another winter only months away, I feel obligated to get the lack of heat addressed. Once the attorneys work out some kind of settlement arrangement, we will have a better idea of any costs involved.

Next month I will cover in more detail what the Reserve Advisors study has provided us. I will summarize the details of the priorities regarding dozens of maintenance items facing St. Mary's in the coming years, the costs involved, and our strategies to date on how to approach these issues. I will close by asking you to pray for St. Mary's and its members and staff, and consider those ways in which you might support these important efforts. As always, should you have any questions about your Vestry's work, please let one of us know.

*John Joy*

*Last month: Rich Davis*

## More from JOHN JOY

As our Pilgrim Priest David pointed out in last Sunday's sermon, we are in the Easter season. Signs of rebirth in the natural world surround us, as the trees, shrubs, plants and grass come alive once again. Spring is here! Thanks to all who have ventured out and attended a recent service in person. It is a very pleasant sight indeed to see the church pews gradually fill up a little more as the weeks go by. Please be reassured that you are welcome to attend in person. All attendees wear masks (except when reading the Gospel or prayers), every other pew is closed so social distancing is in place effectively, only the Bread is offered at communion, and it is done so in a sanitary, social distanced manner. We believe the church on Sunday is one of the places where you could expect little to no exposure to the threat of Covid 19. In fact, at 23 May service, a show of hands revealed that every attendee was fully vaccinated!

As I reported last month, we have received as expected the Reserve Advisors report on our St. Mary's facilities. The Vestry will be discussing it further and reviewing it with the Diocese in the months to come; the seventy page report contains a lot of material to digest. The main items of interest in the report are a listing by year of the repairs and work needing done to maintain St. Mary's for the next 30 years and the costs associated with each year. The study also recommends what amounts of money (reserves) are needed each year to position the church properly to be able to afford the upkeep of the buildings and grounds. As more is learned about this study, I will be happy to provide more information. Work is continuing to try and seek a remedy to the recent HVAC issues, and we are hopeful some progress is being made.

One of the areas covered by the study was security and safety of the building and grounds. To help us learn more about the usage patterns at St. Mary's, we have placed a sign in sheet inside at both the Lacy Hall back door kitchen entrance and in the hallway from the main back parking lot entrance. For the next few months, we are asking any unscheduled visitor to sign in and sign out. Anyone coming in on "normally scheduled" times does NOT need to sign in. Anyone coming in and out at other times for any reason needs to sign in and out. This is also a common practice for many organizations so who is in the building is known in the event of an emergency. Your cooperation will be much appreciated.

With the leadership of Vestry member Rich Davis, a working budget for 2021 was prepared. After revision, the budget projects income of \$108,617 and expenses of \$111,857. This is a "bare bones" budget, with little extra allowances for unexpected expenses. It does not contain an allowance for the repairs and capital improvement projects needed by our facilities. For those of you who may not know, the budget is heavily dependent on interest from our endowments. In fact, only about 23% of the income is estimated to come from the congregation. The Vestry acknowledges that both needed repairs and congregational growth are top priorities for St. Mary's, and that financial situation must improve in the years to come for St. Mary's to continue its mission.

Hope to see you on Sunday!  
*John Joy, Sr. Warden*



Are you unable to leave your home due to illness or disability? Rev. David has announced that he will visit the sick and shut-ins to bring **Holy Communion** to them. If you need to request a visit from Rev. David for this, or any other purpose, please call the church office to place that request.

Communion will be brought to you on Sundays following our service. Rev. David is eager to meet those of you he has not yet had the pleasure of getting to know! Please make use of this offer! You will enjoy getting to know Rev. David also!

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

Herschel Hook, Esther Russell, Nancy Orth, Mary Reynolds, Jim Shirkey, Maxine McGrath, Cindy Eigel, Ann-Marie Ogden, Elsie Young, Carlene Phillips, Charlie and Martha Gorman, Brad Elmore, Bob & Dorothy Hodson, Beth Lancaster, Susan Bright, 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 and Ethan and Samantha Anderson and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.



# The Red Door

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

## *Updated Guidelines!*

*Masks & Social Distancing Encouraged*  
*Singing begins! (masks encouraged!)*  
*Communion with host only*  
*Coffee Hour will begin with social*  
*distancing and/or outdoors!*  
*(watch for start date)*

## **BLACK HISTORY JUNETEENTH PROGRAM**

**Wendell Harewood will be honored!**

**Where: Church of the Nazarene**

**When: Saturday, 19 June**

**Time: 1:00pm**

**Speaker: Kristyn Hartman**

**African American Awareness  
Research Council and  
Highland District Library**

## **Lector & Intercessor Schedule**

<b>1st week</b>	<b>Sandy Ferrell &amp; Dea Flinn</b>
<b>2nd week</b>	<b>Betty &amp; Jim Heathcote</b>
<b>3rd week</b>	<b>Carol &amp; John Joy</b>
<b>4th week</b>	<b>Andrea &amp; Tyler Harner</b>
<b>5th week</b>	<b>Sandy Ferrell &amp; Dea Flinn</b>

## **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.

*(note: masks are encouraged continuously while in  
the church buildings, with exceptions as explained  
by Fr. David during the service. Hand sanitizer and  
masks are available!)*

*We strive to be safe and make our parishioners and  
guests feel safe and welcome!*

**WEB SITE:**  
[www.smehillsboro.weebly.com](http://www.smehillsboro.weebly.com)