

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

March 2021

PILGRIM PRIEST'S PONDERINGS

DAVID BAILEY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
My thoughts on Lent

First, the goal of Lent is not an exercise in self-control. When people say "I gave up [...] for Lent", it's usually something that was not healthy or edifying in the first place!

Second, the goal of Lent is not to confess your sins and resolve to live a better life.

Both of these disciplines are NOT the goal of Lent, but may well serve as a MEANS to the GOAL.

The GOAL, very specifically, is to become better Ambassadors for Christ (*II Corinthians 5:16-21*). This is what we were called to be at our Baptism, and what most of us (myself included) fail at, time and time again.

So how do we become better at our calling as Ambassadors of Christ? Lent is a time to review our skills set, and to hone those skills.

We become better enabled to be Ambassadors of Christ by studying the Scriptures, especially the Gospels. My recommendation to all is to read the Gospel of Luke, followed by the Acts of the Apostles. Acts gives us a clear picture of how the first Ambassadors carry out their ministry. **Make this part of your Lenten discipline.**

We become better enabled to be Ambassadors of Christ by spending time with God in prayer. Molly and I have returned to the discipline of praying Compline (BCP pg. 127) together every night. This prayer service has sustained Christians for over 1500 years. Many of the prayers used in the Book of Common Prayer are at least that old. Spend time praising and petitioning God on a daily basis. **Make this part of your Lenten discipline.**

We become better enabled to be Ambassadors of Christ by reading what other Christians have written

about their faith and ministry. Molly and I are reading Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep by Tish Harrison Warren (*IVP, 2021*). We read a Chapter, and then we discuss that chapter together. The reading and discussion have been invaluable for honing my own skills as an Ambassador of Christ. **Make this part of your Lenten discipline.**

We become better enabled to be Ambassadors of Christ by regular time in corporate worship. For most of us this time is on Sundays. Even with COVID-19 restrictions, we at St. Mary's are able to gather each Sunday for corporate worship. If you are not yet able or comfortable to join us in person, you can participate through the Facebook page for St. Mary's. If that is not something you are comfortable doing, pray Morning and/or Evening Prayer out of the Prayer Book (pgs. 37-126). Use the Forward Day by Day booklets to aid you in selecting Scriptures. **Make this part of your Lenten discipline.**

We become better enabled to be Ambassadors of Christ by receiving Holy Communion on a regular basis. Again, most Sundays I will be at St. Mary's to celebrate the Eucharist and distribute Holy Communion. If you are not able or comfortable with attendance and wish to receive, let the office know and I will come to your residence with the Sacrament. **Make this part of your Lenten discipline.**

In order to do all of the above, we need to make time in our busy schedules. Look at what occupies your time during the day and commit to reducing or eliminating those non productive activities that do not make you better enabled to be an Ambassador of Christ. **Make this part of your Lenten discipline.**

If you find yourself too burdened by sin or anxiety to enter into Lent, contact me and we can schedule (*continued on page 3*)

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.



For several years, the Guild of St. Mary's had Student Musical Programs. Here is Ralph Vance from the program in 1959. Additional photos appear on page 3.



Who is this?

Answer next month

Last month: John Glaze

2020 was certainly a challenging year for St. Mary's, as it was for all of us. The Vestry worked diligently on a number of issues, and is pleased to report progress on a number of them. While there is still some unfinished business to be tackled in 2021, let's join together in hoping and praying that 2021 will be a year in which St. Mary's Episcopal Church can look to the future and experience a rebirth in both spirit and growth. We have enjoyed on-going spiritual leadership and guidance from our Supply Priest, Rev. David Bailey. Through the efforts of John Glaze, the church navigated the difficult waters of the Corona virus and worked hard during the year to provide services either in person or via the internet as circumstances permitted.

The past due Mission year was paid up current during the course of the year. This represents over \$20,000 in costs that we will not have to pay this year. Note that this was above our annual mission share, which is around \$20,000 annually.

With the help of Richard Davis, the Vestry has completed the Parochial Reports properly and submitted them in a timely manner. Steps for improving our record keeping have been taken. For those of you not aware, the Vestry has obtained the services of a local Hillsboro accountant to make sure the accounting functions of the church are up to standard.

Work on the buildings and grounds were another focus during the year. The outside playground area from the Academy was cleaned up; the doors were repainted red; the crumbling stone work in the Norman V. Statzer Memorial Garden was replaced with concrete, and a groundskeeper has been maintaining the grounds for us. Thanks to Charles Everhart for his efforts! Application to the Diocese to assist financially with needed building repairs has been approved in principal.

What will 2021 have in store for our St. Mary's family? As I mentioned earlier, I hope and pray that by year's end, we can look at this year as a year that played a big part in the rebirth of St. Mary's. We are blessed with a beautiful and historic church building; sound spiritual ministerial leadership from Rev. David, and a wonderful music program with a historic pipe organ as a centerpiece. It is with and upon these blessings that there is reason for optimism. 2021 will not be without some hurdles. Among those are the issues with HVAC work done on both the new and old buildings in 2017 and 2018. Some of the equipment installed was far less than what was quoted, and much of the HVAC work was substandard. The Vestry has involved both the Diocese and an outside HVAC expert to assist, and is exploring legal options to try to recover some of damages.

Quotes have been received to complete work on the north side of the building, in both Lacy Hall and the Baptistry. There are issues with the mortar, roofing and capstone blocks in these areas. Costs for a complete repair could easily exceed \$100,000. A number of other needs for repairs have been identified as well.

With the assistance of the Diocese, St. Mary's will have staff of Reserve Advisors on site February 24 to review the buildings in their entirety. This is being done to make sure there aren't any structural or other issues that should be addressed. This company will assist us in prioritizing work to be done. As part of the assistance we will be getting from the Diocese for major repairs, some of the funding will come from our trust funds, and in addition, we will be expected to raise funds to contribute as well.

Lastly, we still have the Covid issues to contend with. The pandemic has affected our church, like many others. Attendance and open plate collections have suffered, as have those of us who missed Communion on a lot of Sundays when the church was not open.

I trust you find this information both useful and encouraging. Should you have any questions any time regarding what is happening, or planned to happen, at St. Mary's, please feel free to ask any Vestry member.

Respectfully submitted,

John Joy, Sr Warden

PHOTOS



Rev. Louis Durr outside of the church with the wedding party of Harriet "Hattie" Marie Ayres Winter. The date is June 18, 1919. Left to right are: Benjamin Burge Ayres (bride's brother), the Rev. Durr, James Everett Winter (groom), Harriet "Hattie" Marie Ayres Winter (bride), Edwin Burette Ayres (bride's father), Edwin Billingham Ayres (bride's brother), Edith Pearl Laymon Ayres (Edwin Billingham's wife), Alice Mae Ayres (bride's cousin), and Sylvia M. Roush (friend of the bride). I believe that the bride's other sibling, sister Sarah Ella "Byrde" Ayres took the photograph.

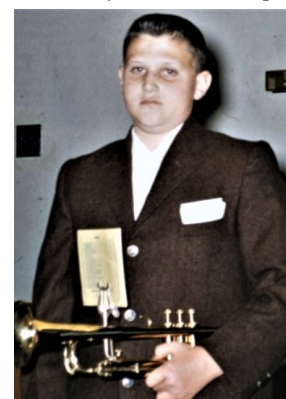
(Photo a gift from Christopher Duckworth, grandson of Edwin Billingham Ayres (in back, in robe))

GUILD MUSIC PROGRAM

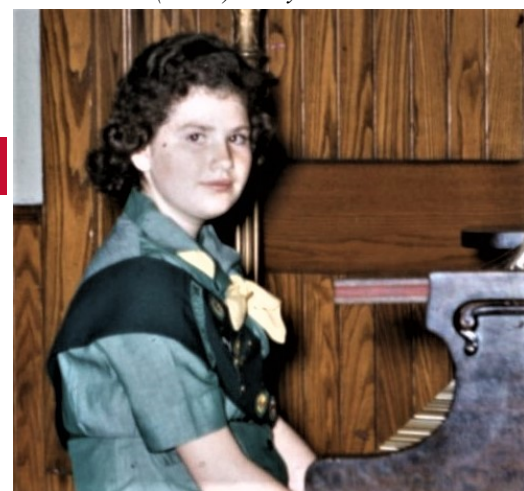
1959



Richard Elberfeld, James Hopewell, Robert Elberfeld, Steven Hopewell



(above) David Shaffer
(below) Kathy Gamble



PILGRIM PRIEST (continued)

some time to talk or meet. I have now received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine, so I can (cautiously) meet with you.

And remember, **IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START YOUR LENTEN DISCIPLINE.**

Your fellow ambassador,

David+

Lector & Intercessor Schedule	
1st week	Betty & Jim Heathcote
2nd week	Sandy Ferrell & Dea Flinn
3rd week	Carol & John Joy
4th week	Andrea & Tyler Harner
5th week	Sandy Ferrell & Dea Flinn

The Red Door

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



Opportunities to Love Your Neighbor

Samaritan Outreach continues to depend upon donations to meet their current needs. Please consider helping us to make a big donation to them! 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

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
Streaming on Facebook
IN PERSON!

(note: masks are required 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