

# The Red Door

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

March 2024

### RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR



*"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."  
(Psalm 46:10 NRSV)*

Once again we have entered the season of lent. This is traditionally a time of self-examination and repentance. In the life of clergy and postulants (those preparing for ordination), it is a special time of discernment and prayer leading up to (for the clergy) a service where we renew our vows to our bishop and receive blessed oils for use throughout the coming year. Here in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, this will be the first time that we make our vows to our new bishop.

What is self-examination? This is a process where we ask ourselves what we believe and why we believe it. We ask ourselves if this is different from what we believed last year, five years ago, or even longer. If it is different, what led to that change in beliefs? Next we ask ourselves if our actions line up with our beliefs. Sometimes we will discover that our beliefs have changed but our actions haven't or our actions have changed but our beliefs haven't.

What is repentance? Repentance is the act of recognizing that we are on the wrong path and intentionally changing to a different (still possibly wrong) path. It has nothing to do with guilt or shame. It is simply trying something new and seeing if that is better.

What is discernment? Discernment is like self-examination, but focused on something like a possible sense of call. It often involves guides to help us explore what we are thinking and/or feeling more clearly.

What is prayer? Prayer is any form of communication with God. There is no single method that is best for any one person or any one time. What is important is the attempt to listen for God's response when we attempt to experience a connection. I give you these thought (along with those from Pope Francis) in the hope that they will help you keep a holy and productive lent.

*Rev Warren Huestis*

### PARISH READING

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

**VATICAN: "Slow Down and Pause in Prayer,"  
Pope Francis' 2024 Lenten Message  
Ash Wednesday 2024**



Sr. Jecinter Antoinette Okoth, FSSA

The Holy Father has reminded the Catholic congregation at the commencement of the 40-day journey of Lent, that it is a time to slow down and pray.

In his 2024 Lenten message themed;

"Through the desert, God leads us to freedom," Pope Francis gives reference to the good Samaritan in the Gospel of St. Luke the Evangelist who showed a spirit of love and care to the person who was in need.

"It is time to act, and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister," reads part of the Pope's message as he adds, "Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies."

He continued while emphasizing the aspect of honest love for fellow brothers and sisters saying, "Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbour. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us."

Focusing on the Book of Exodus (Ex. 20:2) when God revealed Himself to the people of Egypt and freed them from slavery, the Pontiff says that the call to freedom is a "demanding one (as) it is not answered straight away; it has to mature as part of a journey."

"Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses today too, God's people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind," reads the Lenten message in parts.

The oppression in society he says can be realized during those moments when "we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination."

In this case, the Pope narrates, Lent therefore is the "season of grace in which the desert can become once more in the words of the prophet Hosea the place of our first love (Hos. 2:16-17),"

⇒ the prophet Hosea the place of our first love (Hos. 2:16-17), ⇒

## VESTRY

## Parish Reading *(continued)*

Barb Zumwalde, Sr Warden  
 Judy Sauer, Jr Warden  
 John Glaze  
 Maggie Hatfield  
 BJ Hopkins  
 Matt Sauer

Newsletter editor—John Glaze

where “God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind and experience a Passover from death to life. Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts.”

The Head of the Catholic Church acknowledges that exodus from slavery to freedom is no abstract journey, and therefore “If our celebration of Lent is to be concrete, the first step is to desire to open our eyes to reality,” just as when God called Moses out from the burning bush he proved that He was a God who sees and hears when he said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey,” (Ex 3:7-8).

Noting that in contemporary society the cry of so many oppressed brothers and sisters rise to heaven the Pope posed a concern, “Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us?”

Rather he narrates, “All too many things keep us apart from each other, denying the fraternity that, from the beginning, binds us to one another.”

In the spirit of the ongoing Synod on Synodality in the Church, the Pope says “Lent is also a time of communitarian decisions, of decisions, small and large, that are counter current. Decisions capable of altering the daily lives of individuals and entire neighborhoods, such as the ways we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those who go unseen or are looked down upon.”

The Pope therefore invites every Christian community “to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment.”

## *Senior Warden*

Good Morning or Good Evening Saint Mary’s Parishioners

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to peek in at the nave to see the progress. The walls are up, the trim is near completion and the flooring has started. The electrician only has a few small details to finish up. The organ console will be coming back real soon. We are almost done!! I can see the light at the end of this tunnel. Yes, we do have more work to do, but unfortunately a lot of it will have to wait until we have the money. As you are aware we do have three endowments that were left to the church by the Chaney’s and Lacy’s. It may seem as if we should go and have the list of repairs done but that isn’t the case. Good business dictates you NEVER touch your principle (which we did tap into some to tackle this project). We experienced a God’s blessing that Carlene Phillips left us money in her will that WE, Saint Mary’s had total control over. Because of that we were able to do this project. Thank you, Carlene!! IF anyone is planning any estate work, look carefully into how you can also provide for St. Mary’s in your final arrangements. The endowments are WONDERFUL but the Diocese controls what we can do with them and if our doors ever had to close, the endowments go to the diocese. Carlene made it possible for us to use the money as we felt fit and the construction was able to continue. What we will have to focus on in the future is to finish the odds and ends for the nave but mainly focus on Lacy Hall. As you can see, we have plaster damage on the walls which is stemming from leaks in the roof and the exterior stone. I am hoping to get someone to look at the leaks. First job at hand is stop the leaks from causing further damage. We love our church and we want it to flourish and grow. We need everyone’s help and prayers. If you are wondering about the kitchen refrigerator it has quit. It seems it was extremely old and worn out. Currently we are going to move the refrigerator that is in the new building over to take its place. Please say a pray that it holds up. That refrigerator was new in 2000 so moving it may upset it. I also want to let the congregation know that we at Saint Mary’s are making every effort to reach out into the community to let them know we are ALIVE. We have done the fair booth in September, handed out Halloween candy in October, started up Soup’s On again, and an anonymous donor supplied Saint Mary’s with 10 fishing poles and tackle boxes to donate to the local Park and Recreation division for their annual fishing outing for kids. We will be holding a rummage sale in April (clean out your houses, basements, garages and attics for this) and we are looking into more ways to REACH OUT to the community. We are here alive and well and plan on staying here! If you ever want to ask any questions, please contact me and I will try to do my best to answer them.

God bless,

*Barb Zumwalde*

Senior Warden



# The Koehnken & Grimm Organ of St. Mary's

With the organ console scheduled to be moved back into the sanctuary next week (week of 3/11), I thought this might be a good time to refresh your memories on the history of our organ.

From the founding of the congregation until 1885, it is unknown what type of instrument provided music for services at the young St. Mary's. It is known that there had been a pump organ in the chapel in later years and there is speculation that this had been used in the sanctuary at one time. This was a single-manual foot-pumped Estey reed organ, of unknown date, but with typically Victorian cabinetwork. There is no documentary evidence that this instrument was ever used in the church sanctuary, but it seems plausible to speculate that it might have been used during some portion of the period between 1855 and 1885. There is the mystery, however, of the decade-long gap between the 1885 installation of the Koehnken & Grimm pipe organ and the 1895 construction of the chapel. In the Vestry minutes of Jan 9, 1882, it states that F. Read was appointed as a committee of one to dispose of the old organ. What this organ was will most likely never be known.

The first Cincinnati organ builder of more than local fame was German-born Matthias Schwab (1808-1862) who had arrived in the city in 1831. In 1860, he apparently relinquished ownership of his factory at Sycamore and Schiller to several partners, principally to Johann Heinrich Koehnken (1819-1897) and Gallus Grimm (1827-1897). Saxon-born Koehnken arrived in Cincinnati in 1839. In 1860, he established Koehnken and Company. Grimm served as an apprentice to German organ builders before moving to Cincinnati in 1853. The official name was changed to Koehnken & Grimm in 1876. For all intentional purposes, the firm had a monopoly in this part of the country for forty years.

Vestry minutes from December 28, 1884 show the following letter copied into the record:

*To the Vestry of St. Mary's Church, Hillsboro:*

*I wish to place a memorial of my brother Dr. Edward Rives in St. Mary's church, if consistent with the views of the Vestry. I desire to make the gift an organ of best workmanship, with power suitable to the size of the church, two banks of keys and stops and pedals sufficient for the most elaborate church music. I would wish this condition entered upon your minutes, that the organ shall be exclusively for the use of St. Mary's Church, and in case the church shall become extinct, it shall revert to my heirs. Hoping that my desire to memorialize one so dear to me will find response in your hearts,*

*I am very Respectfully yours,*

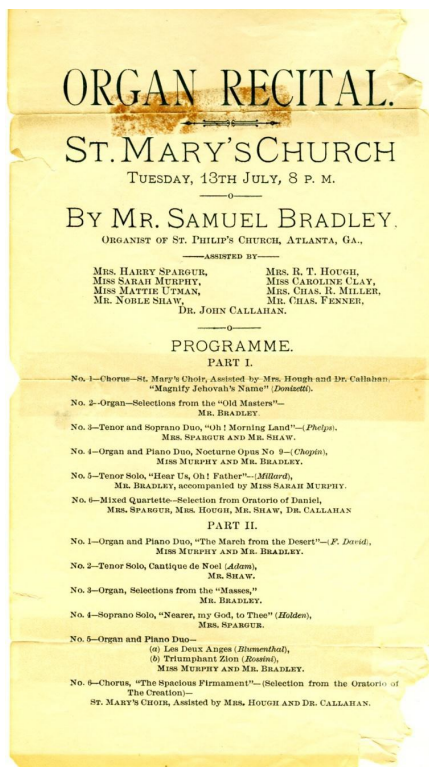
*Margaret Rives King*

The Vestry voted to accept the offer, agreeing to the stipulated condition.

Edward Rives was a native of Virginia and grew up in Cincinnati. He met and married Marie Thompson, daughter of James Henry and Eliza Jane Trimble Thompson. (You may remember that the candlesticks used most frequently on the altar were given in memory of Marie Rives.)

The Rector at the time was the Reverend Edward Bradley and the organ was blessed and used for the first time on August 20, 1885.

*The program to the left is from 13 July 1886.*



There has not been found a stop list of this original organ; however we know it was a tracker action organ with the console located connected to the instrument. The original pipe count is estimated between 726 and 781. A number of sources on the history of the organ include a recollection by long-time parishioner and chorister Charlotte Krebs stating that the organ "was still hand pumped" up to the time of the 1933 Möller rebuild. However, in 1911 there appeared a story in a diocese magazine that the

church was raising money for organ work, including a new electric blower for the organ. We can only assume that this was accomplished as there is also evidence, from the specifications for the rebuild, that there must have been a retrofit of an electric blower sometime before 1933. These specifications call for "a new electric blower and current generator to be supplied, the old one to become the property of the organ builder." The first recorded use of electric lighting in the church dates to May of 1900 (as an interesting sidelight, an insurance policy on the St. Mary's building and contents written in 1904 shows that, at that time, a special rider was required for insurance coverage on buildings equipped with electricity). Regarding location of an electric blower, it must be remembered that there is no basement below the sanctuary. If the blower was located in the vicinity of the present blower, it could not have been prior to 1907, when the office/sacristy link connecting the former chapel with the church proper was constructed. Prior to that time the church and the chapel (originally built in 1895 as a parish house), were independent freestanding structures, separated by a distance of perhaps 25 to 30 feet. In the early days of electricity, it was not uncommon for organs being fitted with electric blowers to retain their original hand-pump mechanisms for backup purposes in case of power failure. In those early days of electric, unreliability was the rule rather than the exception.

A photograph of the instrument taken in 1933 (see next page) before being rebuilt shows the facade pipes were a mixture of wood and metal and were decoratively painted. Inspection of the floor area on the



**MARCH**  
*Happy Birthday!*

*1-Mar Victoria Huestis*



# The Red Door

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

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

DATE	SERVICE	HILLSBORO	WASHINGTON CH
March 24	Palm/Passion Sunday	9:00am	11:15am
March 25	Taizé Prayer	7:00pm	xxx
March 26	Holden Evening Prayer	-	7:00pm
March 27	Compline	7:00pm	-
March 28	Maundy Thursday	-	7:00pm*
March 29	Good Friday	12:00pm (noon)	7:00pm
March 30	Easter Vigil	8:00pm **	-
March 31	Easter Sunday	9:00am	11:15am

### *Organ (continued)*

south side of the organ showed the location of the original console up until the current time when the chancel floor was replaced. No further information on the organ is found in the minutes until October of 1911 when mention is made of "repairs to organ and church." In "The Church Chronicle" of March 1911: "Just at present every effort is being bent towards raising three or four hundred dollars for the tuning and repairing of the beautiful memorial organ and fitting it with an electric motor pump."

On October 7, 1924, the organ was again reported to be in a state of disrepair. The next mention appears on May 3, 1926, when the Vestry decided that "Mr. Rimmer a Pipe Organ specialist from Cincinnati" was to be consulted. (This may have been John Rimmer, who was in the Koehnken & Grimm line of succession.) Two weeks later repairs were authorized amounting to \$150.

On May 9, 1933, "Mrs. Meta Wright, Organist, appeared before the Vestry and presented for their consideration the matter of repairing or rebuilding the church organ. . . . She pointed out defects and showed the need for repairs, stating that in its present condition she feared it would fail or become unusable at some special service. . . ." The following month M. P. Möller's proposal for rebuilding the organ at a cost of \$3500, based on specifications drawn up by Prower Symons of Cincinnati was accepted. Approximately \$3000 of the amount came from a legacy in the will of Frank W. Armstrong. The organ was rededicated Christmas 1933. In summary, the rebuild performed by Möller converted the instrument to a state-of-the-art electro-pneumatic instrument with the original console removed and replaced by a detached console positioned across the chancel from the pipe chamber. The original exposed wooden pipes were removed and all metal pipes were lengthened to cover the additional height of the enlarged pipe chambers.

That gets us up to some work done in the 1970s and 80s and finally up to the 2008 work performed by the Muller Organ Company of Croton, Ohio, where the console was completely rebuilt and the organ completely rewired and computerized, bringing it up to 21st Century Standards.

