

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

May 2021

PILGRIM PRIEST'S PONDERINGS

DAVID BAILEY

MISSION STATEMENTS

Fellow Ambassadors of Jesus Christ,

True story: when I was working as an Industrial Research Chemist, we had an R&D Mission Statement that hung by every entrance to the Research Facility, as well as by the elevators on each floor. That Mission Statement had hung in these places for a long time. One day, I looked closely at the Mission Statement, took it off the wall, and walked into the office of the Vice President for R&D.

"Kerry," I said, "we need to update this Mission Statement." "Why?" he asked. I responded, "Well first of all the name of our company has changed – twice – since this statement was posted!"

Mission and Vision Statements are often like that. They are written, posted,and then ignored. This happens in all sorts of organizations, the Church being no exception.

I am reading a fascinating book "Start With Why" by Simon Sinek. Sinek makes the observation that organizations that last the test of time start by answering WHY they exist, then WHAT they do and finally HOW they do it. But it all begins with WHY.

As a Christian, I believe that we should look to Scripture to understand WHY the Church exists. There is no better place to start than John 3:16, so often quoted that it has faded into the background for too many of us. Here is a translation that looks at the original Greek:

"For God so loved (agape) Creation (Cosmos), that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who trusts (pisteuo) in him may not perish but have life eternal".

WHY we follow Christ, WHY there is Church, WHY each of us is an Ambassador for Christ, is because of God's love, God's initiative, God's promise.

That's WHY. Next comes the WHAT. Again I turn to Scripture. At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, we learn that our Risen Lord appeared to his disciples on a mountain in Galilee. He said to them:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all peoples (ethnoi), baptizing them in the name of the Father and

of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, until the end of the age." [Matthew 28: 18b-20]

This is the original Mission Statement for the Church. It is given by the One with ultimate authority, explains what we are to do, and ends with a promise. I will be using this as our Dismissal from now on, so that ALL of us will know it by heart.

The Mission Statement of each group of Christians (be it congregation, diocese or denomination) needs to reflect this original Mission Statement. Such Mission Statements will state HOW we fulfill the Great Commission (the WHAT) in our local context, while always keep in mind the WHY of why we exist at all.

During my time at St. Mary's, I will be asking each of us to reflect on WHY we are here, WHAT we are to do, and HOW we are to do it.

Your fellow Ambassador for Christ,
David+

THE DIOCESAN VISION STATEMENT

"A church focused outside our doors, loving and serving Jesus Christ in our beloved communities in relevant ways, both new and traditional."

THE DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

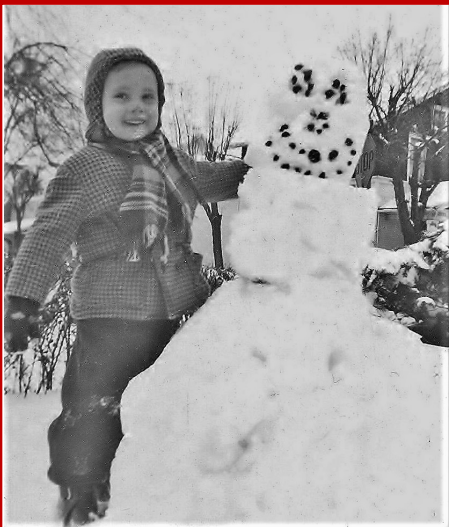
"Christ is calling us into meaningful connections with each other that transcend all boundaries, and to act on those connection for the benefit of all. By these connections we are made whole."

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.



REGARDING THIS MONTH'S KID!

Extra points are possible for identifying the character on the right—assuming one can tell the difference!

As for the facial characteristics of my pal "Frosty", back in those days we could afford either carrots or coal. Either one or the other. So, in the winter we had coal, not carrots. To this day I cannot stand even a spoonful of coal soup. In the summer, we had carrots—but Frosty, for some reason, was never around in the summer.

Who is this?



Answer next month

Last month: David Bailey

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), 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 should expect little to no exposure to the threat of Covid 19.

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 which need completed 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. We are working 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 are placing 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 have 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

COVID INFORMATION

Have you had your Covid jabs (as the Brits say) yet? From a publication by MediGold, here are some facts about the speed with which the vaccines were developed. You might find this interesting.

Yes, the COVID-19 vaccines were developed more quickly than other vaccines in the past. But it's important to note that the vaccines were not rushed—each was thoroughly researched and tested in large-scale clinical trials, and no safety protocols were bypassed to speed up the process.

These factors contributed to that speed:

- ◇ **Knowledge of other coronaviruses.** The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV2) is very similar to SARS and MERS, coronaviruses that previously made the jump from animals to people. Therefore, experts were not starting completely from scratch. They had years' worth of research to build on.
- ◇ **Worldwide collaboration.** The level of cooperation around the world was unprecedented.
- ◇ **Available funding for research.** One of the biggest hold-ups in vaccine development is lack of funding. Multiple institutions and private donors came together to provide funding needed.
- ◇ **Early manufacturing** To avoid any delays in getting vaccines into arms, manufacturers began making COVID-19 vaccines before authorization came from FDA. Had they not been approved, they would have had to throw everything out—it was a risk, but one they were willing to take.

Vaccine efficacy: trials show that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are 95% and 94% effective at preventing symptomatic infection. Johnson & Johnson trial showed 72% efficacy at preventing infection and 85% effective at preventing severe disease. Most importantly, ZERO percent of vaccinated people were hospitalized or died of COVID--19 after the vaccines had taken full effect.

Why do we continue to mask up in services? As of 4/14, Highland County is still in the RED zone. Our case count is 3,452; hospital count is 183; death count is 58. Our current active case count (as of 4/12) is 41. The per capita case rate in the county has been going down and is now below 100, so by continuing to be safe, we are doing our part. If we err, we should do so on the side of caution. There is research being conducted on the possibility that vaccinated person can still carry and transmit the disease. Currently, the leaning is toward this not being as possible as once thought. As Episcopalians, we are taught to 1: **Love God** and 2: **Love our neighbor as ourself**. Masking in public places is another way we can show that love.

There are many resources available to learn more about the virus and the vaccines. On the internet, you can go to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>. There are many pages of information there—information which can be trusted (as opposed to sources such as Facebook and other social media). One especially interesting read is the Facts vs. Myths page. Highland County Health Department has many resources, along with Jarred Warner's press releases concerning the virus in our area.

See <http://www.highlandcountyhealth.org/new-page-3>



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

Margaret Lyons, 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 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.



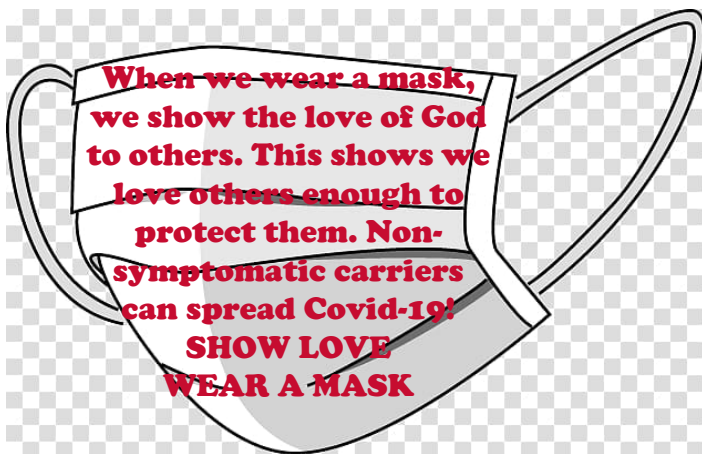
The Red Door

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

Celebrate the Risen Lord!



WEAR A MASK!



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

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 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