

# The Red Door

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

May 2024

### RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR

### PARISH READING



“  
*For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.* (1 Thessalonians 1:4-8)

Long biblical passage this month, but it speaks to something very important. From the earliest days of the church, there was talk about what evangelism was supposed to look like. There was a clear command from Jesus to do it, but what was (is) it? “Go out” he said! “Share the Good News” he said! But he also said to shake the dust off of our feet and move on if we were not received.

Paul here is giving us an example of effective evangelism. He is praising the church in Thessalonica, not for their great skills in preaching, not for their faithfulness in gathering together, but for the inspiration spreading in their area simply by people seeing the example they were setting by living differently. They were living their faith openly and visibly in an area where that drew attention. They were setting an example of what they understood it to mean to imitate Christ and people were noticing. People were talking about it. The word was spreading.

This is evangelism. It has nothing to do with being “preachy.” It has nothing to do with imposing our understanding of Christ. It has nothing to do with being judgmental. It can simply be living as we are called to live fully and visibly all the time!

Rev Warren Huestis

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

#### A Practical Theology of Episcopal Evangelism

Steve Pankey, Andy Doyle, David Gortner, Nick Knisely and Stephanie Spellers

*Adapted from a paper by Steve Pankey, Andy Doyle, David Gortner, Nick Knisely and Stephanie Spellers, members of the Task Force on Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism*

Evangelism is front and center for Episcopalians today. At General Convention 2015, Presiding Bishop-Elect Michael Curry promised to serve as C.E.O.: the Chief Evangelism Officer. He shared his vision of a whole church freshly oriented toward the proclamation and embodiment of the good news of Jesus Christ.

As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we exist to follow Jesus and help the whole world to grow loving, liberating and life-giving relationships with God, with each other, and with creation. Evangelism is one of the most important ministries in the Jesus Movement – this is where we focus on accompanying our neighbors and communities as we all develop more loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with God on the journey.

So what exactly is an Episcopal practice of evangelism? Scripture tells us it is rooted in the Greek word *evangelion*, meaning gospel, glad tidings or good news (see Mark 16:15). With the Great Commission, Jesus sent his followers to go make disciples everywhere, baptizing and teaching people to follow his commandments (Matthew 28:16-20). In the Baptismal Covenant, we promise to “proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ” and “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself” (The Book of Common Prayer, 305).

Here is a practical definition collectively crafted by members of the Presiding Bishop’s Evangelism Initiatives Team, the Task Force for Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism, and many more partners: **We seek, name and celebrate Jesus’ loving presence in the stories of all people—then invite everyone to MORE. #EpiscopalEvangelism**

Note it’s the length of a tweet. We think evangelism is best practiced utilizing modes real people use to communicate. But there is a lot more to share and learn, so let’s unpack it:

**Episcopal evangelism.** We as a Church are starting to embrace the word “evangelism.” Episcopal evangelism is not some heavy-handed duty. It is not a tool, and not merely for use to get more people as converts, church members, or pledging units. At its heart, Episcopal evangelism is a spiritual practice. When we do it, we embody the very life and practice of Jesus in the world (active); and we are filled with the Spirit and formed ever more into the likeness of Christ (receptive). It’s a joyful sharing of what you know to be good news and deep truth, and a celebration of how you see God at work in →

## VESTRY

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

Newsletter editor—John Glaze

## Parish Reading *(continued)*

others' lives and in the world. It wells up from the experience of God's love poured out for us and into us; so much love it can't help but overflow from us in grateful story and celebration.

**Seek.** As Episcopalians, we promise "to seek and serve Christ in all persons." To actively listen for God present in others is a bold statement of faith. We dare to go out like sleuths, genuinely curious and assuming we will find the presence of the Holy Spirit, and that God has gone before us into all places and is at work in every life.

**Name.** Evangelism is the telling of God's good news. It involves our words and all of our expressive powers. It can be so simple: "You know, I hear God working through you in your

story of how you and your family handled that situation." This is one of the great gifts of evangelism – announcing God's goodness and presence in people's lives, and holding up a mirror to let them know. If we do not name God as the one we see, people around us may never know.

**Celebrate.** When we seek and find Christ, we find ourselves encouraged, grateful, surprised and delighted, like the widow who finds her lost coin and goes out saying "Rejoice with me!" (Luke 15:8-10). There is nothing naïve about this celebration. Ask people who have struggled for liberation, and they will tell you mature Christians celebrate every breath – not always by jumping up and down, but with a contagious surge that says "yes" to life and to God.

**Jesus' loving presence.** We are Trinitarian Christians: the Father has created us in love, the Son has redeemed us in love, the Holy Spirit sustains us in love. Many of us feel hesitant talking about Jesus, perhaps because we're worried about stereotypes. We are Christ-ians, patterning our lives after the one who was and is God among us, revealing the truest and fullest incarnation of the Holy ever to grace the earth. In our evangelism, we invite people to discover more of life with him. Without Jesus, it's not evangelism.

**Stories of all people.** At the heart of our Christian faith is the Great Story, the collection of stories of God's creating, redeeming work in scripture, especially in the story of Jesus. We are all part of this Great Story – all made in God's image, all moving through a world shot through with God – but we need to grow our capacity to seek, name and celebrate God at work in our own lives. Practice telling the stories of God's goodness in your life – journal them and practice with others. Then, ask people for their stories. It is an amazing dance when we welcome others' stories, share our own and link it all to the Great Story.

**Invite everyone to MORE.** Evangelism is more than conversing, being a friend or even listening. Celebrating the good news of Jesus' loving presence inspires us toward something more. We're not turning people into projects or objects. Simply invite someone to more dialogue ("Could we meet again?"), more reflection (scripture, books, poems, videos or movies) or more Christian community (worship, outreach, study group, link to others with mutual interests). It could be the invitation to see more of God at work in themselves, in us, in the world.

Episcopal evangelists are not selling Jesus or the church, nor are we in charge of whether anyone follows Jesus. That movement belongs to the Holy Spirit. Still, the more we're in tune with the loving presence of Jesus, the more we're experiencing the fullness of a loving, liberating and life-giving relationship with God, the more it wants to overflow. That overflow is evangelism.

<https://www.ecfp.org/vestry-papers/article/613/a-practical-theology-of-episcopal-evangelism>

## Steeple Talk

From the earliest photos we have, the same steeple appears up until 1970, when the current steeple was put into place. We know very little about the appearance of the first steeple...it could be the same one used up until 1970, but it is doubtful. Here are portions of the 1 Nov 1855 article which appeared in the Highland Weekly News:

"(The) Height to top of belfry 55 feet. The front and rear corners of the main building are ornamented with small minarets, of chaste and elegant design, also in 'terra cotta.' The point of the roof (which is very steep) is surmounted in front with a light belfry, and in the rear with a Greek Cross."

We are left to wonder just what a "light belfry" is. We know that the ends of the building extended above the roof, just as occurs with the Parish House walls. This was changed and a new roof put on. Perhaps there was a new belfry installed at that time.

*(left: old belfry; right: 1970 installation)*



# Senior Warden Report

Good Morning or Good Evening Saint Mary's!

Alleluia the nave is almost done! Painting done. Electric done. Flooring to be done by April 25. We still have some small odds and ends to tidy up, but everything is looking wonderful. In case you haven't noticed we have had numerous volunteers step up to fix some of our repairs that are needed. I will apologize in advance if I miss something but look around. Our memorial garden is beautiful, and some outside repairs are being made. Inside repairs are being made also. We still have some major ones needed for Lacy Hall and the Telfair Room, but we will continue moving forward. I would like to share some other updates with you. We held a rummage sale April 19 and 20 and what a success! We made \$1282.17 and it will go toward replacing the 2 windows we mention before. If the cost is the same as it was, we are halfway there. A big thank you to all who donated, help set up and work it. It takes ALL of us to do God's work. Once the nave is up and running, we plan on a celebration to invite current, past and future members. We want to open the doors to the whole community. This year we are one of the sponsors for the Hillsboro Park and Recreation fishing event which will be held April 27. We have a church picnic August 25 to look forward to and this is only happening because Jim and BJ Gee invited us to their home and are hosting it. (please tell them thank you for this since it is a major expense). We are looking into having a fair booth again this September. We want to reach out to the community and invite them to worship with us. If you have any suggestions on how to get us and the community together let me know. We have had a busy year, and we plan on continuing this pace.

God Bless,

*Barb Zumwalde*

Senior Warden

## What next? or How We Renovated, One Disaster at a Time

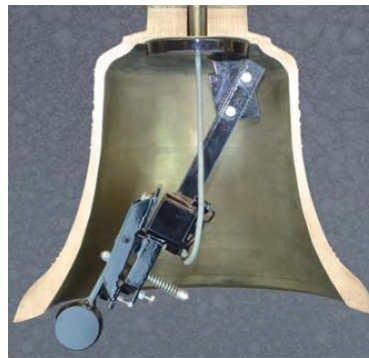
Unexpected results of a move. I guess that is the easiest way to categorize the state of our organ, the bell ringing controller--well, maybe the entire project. As you know, we came through the back door into this project...a simple affair of pulling up some flooring to be able to replace our HVAC units and finally get quality climate control in our sanctuary. One thing led to another and suddenly we are in the quarter of a million dollar neighborhood and counting.

The latest: you may remember that our organ would no longer "boot up" the controller which, as the name implies, controls the entire system. The offending computer board was sent back to the factory and has been fixed or replaced and will soon be installed back in our organ. Then, after two years of extreme temperatures, the organ will be in dire need of a tuning. We don't know the bill for all of this work, but at least some of the fiddly part was accomplished thanks to Warren and the Harners volunteer work to get the new wiring in place.

But now, within the past week, we learned that our Verdin bell controller has bitten the dust also. At 22 years old, there are no replacement parts available and we are looking at a new controller in the neighborhood of \$6500+. We have also learned from Verdin that our ringer should be inspected as well as the structure to verify it can continue to safely support our 400 lb bell.

The Verdin Company folks also were able to supply us with additional information which I have never found anywhere in our archives. But I'll start with the full information. Verdin recommends their DBC-870 controller as a replacement. It can be programmed in several additional ways compared to our current system. The system also uses a Flash Memory system as a backup. Our old system had to be com-

pletely reprogrammed following a power outage. This was quite fiddly. The old system was hard-wired for time change. In other



words, it continued to change to Daylight Savings Time on the dates which were "set in stone" back 22 years ago. As a result, it had to be reprogrammed at least four times a year. Twice to change it back after it had changed to DST on the incorrect date and then again to change to DST on the correct date, plus after power outages.

The photo to the left will give you some idea of what the ringer in our bell looks like. This is an "inside" ringer. Verdin's records show our bell to have a weight of 400 pounds and was cast by "Coffin."

George Coffin founded the Buckeye Bell Foundry in 1837 and his son continued the business through 1866. In 1866, EW Vanduzen, an apprentice to Coffin, took over the business and under his leadership, this became one of the largest bell manufacturer's in the world.

The rep at Verdin isn't 100% positive of the age of our bell, but believes it was likely cast prior to 1866! Quality bronze bells (like this) are not impacted by time or weather and they never need to be tuned. In fact, our bell will play the same note today as it did in the year it was originally cast!

Pending further investigation, the rep believes the striker (inside the bell) is from a 1970 installation and (luckily) doesn't think we will need to replace this striker, but want to check some details on the striker. He does think they will want to include a technical survey of the bell, just to make sure this striker is in good working condition.

Are you interested in donating the cost, or part of the cost of this bell work? St. Mary's bell has tolled faithfully during daylight hours for nearly a quarter of a century and we hope it will continue to do so for many more years. It has tolled happy news of weddings, the sad news of funerals, celebrated Bells Across America's call for peace as well as other major events.



**MAY**  
**Happy Birthday!**

**2 May - Sam Harner**  
**31 May - Rob Harner**

# The Red Door

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

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

## *Buckeye Bell Factory*

With Hillsboro's history of bell manufacturing, some wonder why we don't have a bell cast by C. S. Bell Co. Simply put, they weren't in business when our bell was likely purchased. Since our bell states that it is from Coffin, we can surmise that it may have been cast between 1837 and 1865. Since our church wasn't ready for a bell until at least 1855, that narrows down the casting to a 10 year period between 1855 and 1865. A letter dated Dec. 4, 1857 from George L. Hanks of Cincinnati to W. O. Collins quotes prices of \$215.20 for a 552 lb. bell, and \$171.05 for a 442 lb. bell. There is no further correspondence in parish records concerning the purchase and hanging of a bell, but one can assume that as of Dec. 1857 no bell was in place, and the possible cost would have been around \$200, which was the price Mr. Hanks offered for the 552 lb. bell if paid for in cash. George Lucius Hanks died in 1859.

We know that in 1957, there was work done to the roof and the belfry was in bad state at that time. It is believed also that during the major roof work where the raised ends of the building were changed to have the roof overhanging both front and back that there was a replacement of the belfry. Then in the 1970s, the current belfry was installed. But little mention is provided for the actual purchase of the bell currently in place.

### **Buckeye Bell Factory History**

Buckeye Bell grew out of a factory originating in Nottingham England in 1777, when Thomas Hedderly founded a bell factory. His son and grandson continued the business in Philadelphia for several years. George Hanks bought the business from Henry Hedderly and in turn George Coffin acquired the business from George Hanks.

George Coffin founded the Buckeye Bell Foundry in 1837 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The foundry created the most ornate bells ever made in the United States. During the Civil War, the foundry produced cannons to support the war effort.

Van Duzen was apprenticed to George Coffin and by 1865 he and his partner, Mr. Tift, bought the company from Mr. Coffin. Van Duzen changed the name from two words to one word, Vanduzen. The partners owned the company until 1894, when Vanduzen became the sole owner.

To improve the sound of the bell, Vanduzen changed the

shape of the bell. Their bells had a unique mounting with a disc used to hold the bell to the yoke. The company had a warranty on bells weighing more than 120 pounds not to crack for 10 years from the date of sale.

This company has the distinction of having founded the largest bell ever cast in America and the largest bell mounted in a regular swinging church bell in the world. The exact weight of that bell was 27,390 pounds. With the mounting, the bell weighs about 35,000 pounds and hangs in the tower of St Francis de Salles Roman Catholic Church in Cincinnati, OH.

The factory closed its doors in the early 1950's.

Hopefully, when the bell is inspected, or after searching their records, The Verdin folks will be able to provide additional information to fill out our records.

*Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand,  
Ring out the darkness of the land.  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

*Alfred Lord Tennyson*

