

# The Red Door

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

October 2021

### PILGRIM PRIEST'S PONDERINGS

DAVID BAILEY

#### WORSHIP

Last month's Pondering described what I believe are the three WHYS of Anglicanism/the Episcopal Church. To remind you, these are:

The Great Commission  
The Summary of the Law  
Worship

This month and next I want to focus on that third WHY: Worship.

Worship in the Anglican tradition is ultimately and fundamentally sourced in the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer: the first Book in England (1549), the Second Book (1552), the Third Book (1559), and the Fourth (and until recently, the last) Book (1662). In the United States the Prayer Book Tradition continued in the First American Book (1789), the Second American Book (1892), the Third American Book (1928), and our current American Book of Common Prayer (1979). Each Book made modifications to the preceding Book.

Perhaps the most significant modification made in this collection occurred when the Episcopal Church adopted the 1662 Prayer Book to the American context. The framers of that First American Prayer Book wrote the following (1789):

"It is a most invaluable part of that blessed 'liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,' that in his worship different forms and usages may without offence be allowed, provided the substance of the Faith be kept entire; and that, in every Church, what cannot be clearly determined to belong to Doctrine must be referred to Discipline; and therefore, by common consent and authority, may be altered, abridged, enlarged, amended, or otherwise disposed of, as may seem most convenient for the edification of the people, according to the various exigency of times and occasions." [1979 Book of Common Prayer: pg. 9]

Now Doctrine is defined in the Episcopal Church as "...the basic and essential teachings of the Church and is to be found in the Canon of Holy Scripture as understood in the Apostles and Nicene Creeds and in the sacramental rites, the Ordinal and Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer." [Canons of the Episcopal Church Title IV.2]

I've spent some time pondering the acts of Christian

Worship, and what is appropriate and what is not appropriate.....especially in an Anglican/Episcopal context.

First and foremost, for Christians the following two passages from the Scriptures are paramount: "[Jesus said] But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him" [John 4:23] and "Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him" [Psalm 96:9]. Worship is God centered. It seems strange to have to state that explicitly, but as many have stated before, the "audience" for worship consists of ONE, while the voices and music of humans, angels, archangels, and all the company of Heaven are the chorus for worship. We don't design worship to please others, we design worship to glorify God.

Second, the worship should be in a language (or languages) understood by the worshippers [I Corinthians 14]. I have no problem with including phrases in Greek, Hebrew or Latin (among other languages), but the meaning of the words should be clear to the worshippers. This can apply to English words in a congregation of English speakers as well. For instance, to truly sing "Amazing Grace", the worshipper should understand the Biblical meaning of "Grace".

Third, the worship should fit the context of the worshipping community. I have worshipped in Latino/a (here and in Costa Rica), Afro-Caribbean, African-American, and Orthodox Christian congregations, as well as mainly Caucasian congregations. The main emphasis in many of these has been to worship the LORD in the beauty of Holiness. If this is central, a different emphasis based on the context of the worshipping community will enhance the ability to worship God.

So, in conclusion, I ask the following three questions of our worship:

>Does our worship glorify God?

>Is our worship understood by the congregation?

>Does our worship fit the context of our community??

I will have more (much more) to say about the place of music in our worship next month!

Your fellow Ambassador in Christ,

*David+*

# 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.*



*This  
 “current unpleasantness”  
 has put our beloved  
 Coffee Hour in limbo for the  
 foreseeable future.*

It appears that most of this year’s summer weather is past, and we are quickly approaching autumn. The change of seasons presents an opportunity for us all to be thankful for the support and work given to St. Mary’s so far this year. I particularly want to thank each and every one of you for your time and financial contributions to our church. At our recent Vestry meeting, we were pleased to hear Rich Davis report that our expenses are tracking very close to “on target”. We also see that our accounting reports for both July and August reflect a checking account balance in excess of \$20,000. While this is not a lot of money compared to the cost of repairs facing the church, it does demonstrate real progress in stabilizing the financial affairs of St. Mary’s. The Vestry has demonstrated over the past year both the commitment and results of an effort to better track and manage the church’s financial affairs. Please take the opportunity to thank the Vestry members for their efforts.

Why is St. Mary’s Episcopal Church important to you? What roles or actions should St. Mary’s be taking to best serve its congregation, the community, and God? While answers to these kinds of questions sometimes are not easy, Father David has been promoting discussions at Vestry focused on such matters, especially the “Why?”. With his assistance and guidance, we are planning to hold more discussions with a broader group later on this fall or early winter. Stay tuned for further details!

*John Joy, Sr. Warden*

## SAFE AT CHURCH?

*Covid is still amongst us! However, we Episcopalians are not a bunch of COVIDIOTS! We are continuing to mask when we worship, even when we sing! We don’t have communion wine, only the wafer and we don’t have Coffee Hour. If you’ve been staying home, think about masking up and joining us on Sunday Mornings! There’s NOTHING like being in church with your St. Mary’s Church Family!*

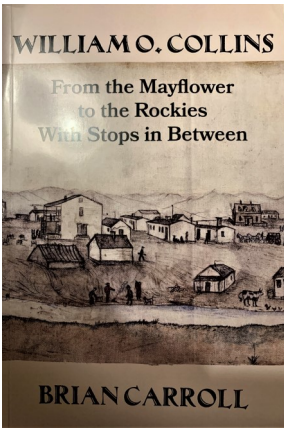
## Who is this?



*Last month: Sandy Ferrell!*



*Lord make Me an instrument of Your peace  
 Where there is hatred let me sow love.  
 Where there is injury, pardon.  
 Where there is doubt, faith.  
 Where there is despair, hope.  
 Where there is darkness, light.  
 Where there is sadness joy.*



Just arrived in my mailbox this week! A new book about the life and adventures of one of our founders, Col. William Oliver Collins! As St. Mary's historian, I was contacted about any information concerning Col. Collins and his time in Hillsboro. I was very happy to help out the author, Brian Carroll. He had hoped to get to Hillsboro last summer for a visit, but Covid and other issues changed his plans.

Being an author was not Brian's first career. He spent 25 years as a Special Agent with the FBI, which prepared him well for attention to details. He lives in Fort Collins, CO now,

and, if you've read the history of St. Mary's or noticed things I have written previously, you'll know this city was named for William Collins. You will also know that three streets in Hillsboro are named for persons or places connected with the Collins Family. Can you name them? You'll also know that Collins acted as treasurer when our building was built, being in charge of disbursement of funds to the contractors.

Since the book just arrived yesterday, (as I write this), I cannot give you any kind of "book report" other than to say, it looks VERY interesting. THE MUSEUM SHOP at Highland House is ordering copies to sell, however, so it will be available in a few weeks, should you care to purchase a copy as a Christmas present for a history loving friend or relative! The price for the paperback edition (which is what THE MUSEUM SHOP will stock) will be around \$20, plus tax. HCHS members save 10% on all shop purchases. If you would like a copy reserved for you, you may let John know or just call the museum.

Receiving Holy Communion helps you feel a part of the Parish of St. Mary's. Rev. David will bring communion to you on Sunday following the service at the church. Call the office to request!

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

For this congregation, for those reading this, and for those who are not, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do. For these on our Parish prayer list: Susan Price (getting better!), Herschel Hook, Esther Russell, Nancy Orth, Mary Reynolds, Jim Shirkey, Maxine McGrath, Ann-Marie Ogden, Tom Bright, Bob & Dorothy Hodson, Susan Bright, Virginia Harewood, Dan Fisher, Sharon and Earl Burnett, Gary Ferrell, Pam Phillips, Tammy Wilson (now at home), John and Cindy Bloom, Elmer Highley, the friends, family and concerns of Joyce and Paul Nort of Amelia; the patients and staff at Georgetown Veterans Home as well as those serving in our armed forces: Macy Lyle, Henry Sherrill, Jaden Chin-Franz, Javier Paula, and any others the congregation wishes to add., we pray to you, O Lord.

**The Book of Common Prayer**

and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church Together with The Psalter or Psalms of David According to the use of The Episcopal Church

We don't think much about it, having been "spoiled" by getting to use our Sunday bulletins instead of the BCP. Have you spent time reading your BCP? Have you opened your BCP? Maybe it's time to spend a little time getting to know just what is included in this unusual book where, regardless of size of book or font, we can all be "on the same page" (yes—pun fully intended!)

The *Preface*, which most people never read, is most interesting, in that, written in 1789, it is in the vernacular of that day and mentions the Revolution. For example: *The attention of this Church was in the first place drawn to those alterations in the*

*Liturgy which became necessary in the prayers for our Civil Rulers, in consequence of the Revolution. And the principal care herein was to make them conformable to what ought to be*

*O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that you would be pleased to make your ways known unto them, your saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

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234 N. High St.  
Hillsboro, OH 45133



*the proper end of all such prayers, namely, that "Rulers may have grace, wisdom, and understanding to execute justice, and to maintain truth;" and that the people "may lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty."*

Just reading such florid writing gives me pause as to the level of writing and speaking today. Why should we fill our vocabulary with such words as promulgating, thereunto, and prepossessions, when we can use HUH?, UM, and YOU KNOW?

Don't get me started.

## 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>Rich Davis &amp; Connie Reynolds</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.

*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)