

# The Red Door

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

September 2023

### RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTOR



*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19 NRSV)*

This year (as most years) two things happen at the same time. Preparation for the Season of Creation and my vacation. This means that I am usually unprepared for the season of creation. All of my time leading up to the middle of August is spent making sure that everything is ready for me to be absent from the parishes.

- Service leaders: check
- Bulletins: check
- Streaming setup: check (All Saints only)
- Website updated: check (All Saints only)
- Emergency coverage: OOPS ... check
- Setup Procter Center WiFi out to Cabin 4?: check(ish)
- Plan for Season of Creation: ... check

This is a real problem for me. In my personal faith, all round stewardship is very central. This means that care of creation is a big part of it. This is why I am involved with Procter Center. This is why I serve on the Commission for Creation Care and Environmental Justice. This is why I talk about All Saints being built in a drained wetlands. This is why I am so insistent that we look at energy efficiency in our choices at St. Mary's. You would think that by this time I would not be caught by surprise every time the Season of Creation comes around (it has been happening at the same time since 1989).

So this year, as I prepare for vacation and read the information about this year's observance, I have been reading  
*(continued on page 3)*

### PARISH READING

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

##### **ECUMENICAL FAITH LEADERS INVITATION**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

The Season "Celebration" begins 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Following the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebrated in the Northern Hemisphere, we began in February the Season of Creation "Preparation" to reach local leaders and call our communities to participate actively by raising awareness of the theme, and how to respond to the cry of creation where the Lord calls us in our diverse contexts. The stage of "Preparation" is key to prepare together for the Season of Creation, creating bonds and relationships as the People of God caring for our common home.

This year we will unite around the theme "Let Justice and Peace Flow" with the symbol of A Mighty River. Ecumenical faith leaders from across the world have prepared a special video to invite you to take part in this season.

Many have also shared their reflections to inspire our ecumenical family in this journey forward as Christians everywhere prepare to witness the power of working together to let justice and peace flow as we care for our common home. We invite you to reflect with their words below:

*"The Season of Creation is a splendid opportunity for Christians around the world to embody the communion for which we human earthlings are created, and to do so in the quest for lifeways that build justice among people and allow Earth's web of life to flourish." - Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda, Ph.D., Professor of Theological and Social Ethics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University. Director, PLTS Center for Climate Justice and Faith*

*"There has never before been a time, in the history of human existence, when we have so gravely threatened not only our own existence, but that of the rest of the living world. But it's not too late to act, if we do it now, if we do it together." - Bishop Olivia Graham, Diocese of Reading, Church of England*

*"The Season of Creation is a vital and necessary reminder that God's saving, healing, justice-seeking love extends to every part of creation. As the Church, the household of God, we are called to live out this life-giving love for the benefit of all." - Rev Faith Whitby, Bishop of the Central District, Methodist  
*(Continued on next page)**

## VESTRY

John Joy, Sr Warden  
 Charles Everhart, Jr Warden  
 Richard Davis  
 Andrea Harner  
 Judy Sauer  
 Matt Sauer  
 Barb Zumwalde  
 1 opening  
 Newsletter editor—John Glaze

### Samaritan Outreach Services (SOS)

is in need of paper goods! When you shop, please remember **YOUR NEIGHBORS** and pick up some extra items. There is a box in Lacy Hall to place them.

Monetary donations accepted also!

If you have questions, see Rich Davis!

**THANK YOU!**

## Ramblings (continued)

ist Church of Southern Africa

*“We live in very turbulent and troubling times as we continue to struggle for world peace and the reconciliation and unity of all creation. We are surrounded by war, violence, climate challenges and unjust systems that continue to dehumanise and oppress people around the globe. Christians are urged to join with God in the ever-flowing river for justice and peace in the world.” - Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay, General Secretary, World Council of Churches*

*“The Season of Creation is a reminder to young people that God is Creator, and we humans, along with others (animals and plants), are creatures. It is a reminder that we need to take care of one another as our Creator takes care of us SoC is important for youth as it recognises us (youth) as leaders of today rather than the victims of tomorrow.” - Priyanka Gloria Gupta, Intern at the World Communion of Reformed Churches*

*“The Season of Creation is a special time of the year to pray with others as part of and with God’s creation. I am reminded that our joint response in loving creation comes from first being in a loving relationship with our Creator God.” - Jasmine Kwong Creation Care Catalyst, Lausanne Movement*

*“This Season of Creation will be an opportunity to pray, reflect and act together as the People of God for our common home. Like tributaries joining forces to become a mighty river, the ecumenical family will come together on a synodal path of care for our common home through justice and peace.” - Sister Alessandra Smerilli, Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development*

*“The Season of Creation is celebrated by ACT members around the world every year from September 1 to October 4. Celebrate with us this year.” - Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance. “The Season of Creation has been a gift to the churches of the Middle East. It has awakened the already present creation dimension in the diverse worship traditions, it has provided language that responds to the concerns of the youth, and it has provided a bridge between the varied ministries and between the faith communities and the civil society..” - Rev’d Dr. Rima Nasrallah, Middle East Council of Churches.*

Through prayer, practical advocacy, and sustainable actions, this 2023 Season of Creation can prophetically renew our ecumenical unity and care for our common

home. We invite you to join this special season and be part of this mighty movement for justice and peace.

May we journey together in communion as the People of God to let justice and peace flow!

*Excerpted from: 2023 Season of Creation booklet*

*More information: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>*

## SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

We are pleased to report the HVAC and Electrical drawings have been approved and permits issued by the City of Hillsboro for those phases of the work to begin. We are also pleased to let you know that Cleve Bartley of Greenfield will be doing the electrical work and he has notified us he plans to begin within the next couple of weeks. Once the electrical work is complete under the floor, the sub-flooring will be installed and then the HVAC work can begin. We do have two of the HVAC quotes in and are waiting on a third one, which should be received this week. Once the HVAC work is complete, and the lower walls are covered, the finish floor can be installed. We are optimistic that this can be completed in time for Christmas; but some extra prayers would certainly be appreciated!

One thing we want to make everyone aware of concerns the electrical work that needs doing. We are installing a new 200 amp breaker panel to supply the new HVAC equipment, as well as installing new wiring to supply the existing breaker panels. Most importantly, we are adding newly installed fused disconnects at the main service panel on the side of Lacy Hall outside where the power comes in. There is no disconnect there now, so the fire department cannot turn off the power in the event of a fire. They would have to wait for AEP to cut the power, so you can all well imagine the additional damage a fire would cause during that additional wait. Here’s the important part--work on that phase of the electrical will require all power to the building shut down, so there will likely be some days St. Mary’s will not have any electric power. We are hopeful the downtime will be minimal, but it is possible it could extend through a weekend, and services may have to be postponed or cancelled. We will, of course, communicate any updates as soon as we get them.

Let me finish up by repeating our appreciation to all of you who have been attending services on Sunday. It is a wonderful problem to have that we are running out of room in Lacy Hall! It is also wonderful to see some new faces, along with some that we have not seen for some time. I hope that you all can sense and share some of the new interest and energy around St. Mary’s Episcopal Church as we get ready to move ahead and add a new chapter to our long and storied history.

*John Joy*

Senior Warden



# 149th Annual Convention

What goes on with Convention? What's different this year? For one thing, our delegates will be electing the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio! This will take place during the **Special Electing Session** on 30 September, which is the first of two sessions this autumn. Clergy and elected lay delegates are expected to participate in both sessions. The Special Electing Session will meet in person on Saturday, September 30 at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati. Registration for the Special Electing Session is now open and will end September 22.

The business session of the 149th Convention will be held on Saturday, November 11 at the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts on the campus of Shawnee State University in Portsmouth. During the business session, clergy and lay delegates will elect diocesan commission leadership; consider resolutions and changes to the diocesan constitution and canons; and vote on the 2024 Mission Share budget. Delegates and clergy may attend the business session either in person or virtual via Zoom. Registration will open on October 1.

Nominations are now open for diocesan leadership positions to be elected at convention. Consider standing for election to one of the vital commissions, committees, and task forces that will work with the new bishop to carry out the ministry of the diocese. Nominations are preferred by September 26; the absolute deadline is November 3. Our delegates may choose to stand for one of these positions and that would certainly heighten the awareness of our parish by the rest of the diocese. Resolutions to the 149th Diocesan Convention must be submitted by September 26. Proposed changes to the diocesan constitution and canons are requested by August 12; the absolute deadline is Sept. 11.

Exciting news - exhibits are back! For the first time since 2019, we will once again offer exhibit space for ministries and vendors at the business session of convention. More information coming soon!

Now, the next news is, that after we have elected a new bishop, we must have an ordination! This is scheduled for February 17 in the Short North Ballrooms of the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC), located at 400 N. High Street in Columbus.

## Ramblings (continued)

about the image of the river of justice and peace. I also read about the extreme low level of the Colorado River and the injustice baked into the water management plan for that river. I hear about the record levels of wildfires in Canada's north. I hear about extended drought in California followed by too much water all at once.

And then I come back to faith and stewardship. To me, the time to talk about whether or not we, humanity, are responsible for the changes that are happening to the earth's climate is well past. It doesn't matter. The earth is in crisis and we are charged by God to have dominion over (take care of) her. This needs to be a time of action. This needs to be a time where we set aside our political differences and respond to the cries of our earthly home. This needs to be a time when we redefine "economic growth" to be not just about now, but rather about seventy years from now (a biblical way of looking at stewardship).

*Rev Warren Huestis*

## Time of Change - Time of Growth

We have been well over a year out of our primary worship space. I use that "primary" adjective, as we all know we can worship at all places and at all times. But, there is a reverence connected with that space. It has held worshippers since October of 1855 and we are fortunate to have records of those names--some of which we know well, almost as if we had met them in person. Then, others are but a name on a record. That said, we do not diminish any who felt St. Mary's was there home--whether for their entire lives or for a brief time. Whether extremely active or only appearing for Sunday services.

Fifty years from now, where will you fit into that continuum of parishioners? A blip or a blob? And, does it matter if you are a Beecher or a Jones? What will matter is that you lived your faith (you loved God), that you knew your "neighbors" and that you loved your neighbors as you love yourself.

We have been watching our attendance begin to increase, albeit slowly, but steadily. And, we must remember that it's not about the numbers. Rather, it is about those souls who find God in our midst--they feel that God is present when they are at St. Mary's and that the feeling is real and genuine. When new folks come in the door, be sure to, at the very least, give them a huge smile. If you are seated near them, be sure they have the worship materials they will need

for the morning. Introduce yourself and inquire if they are familiar with the Episcopal service. If they are not, spend some time showing the bulletin to them and how to decipher which book is called for by the letters in the bulletin. You can offer to collect their names and email address to put them on the Red Door list. Ask if they have any questions. These little things give folks that "come back" feeling.

Although you won't find the "Golden Rule" in the Bible, remember it and (paraphrasing) "greet and help the new folks in the way you would want to be greeted and helped."



*September  
Happy Birthday!*

*3-Sep Andrea Harner  
13-Sep David Harner  
19-Sep Dan Fischer  
21-Sep Bob Lowell  
22-Sep Jim Heathcote*

# The Red Door

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

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



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023  
**01 Sep to 04 Oct**



Last Saturday of each month!

## Lector & Intercessor Schedule

**1st week Betty & Jim Heathcote**

**2nd week Connie Reynolds &  
Dea Flinn**

**3rd week Carol & John Joy**

**4th week Rich Davis & Connie Reynolds**

**5th week Connie Reynolds &  
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. Warren Huestis  
Rector

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9 am  
In person & Streaming on Facebook

2nd & 4th WEDNESDAYS  
*Not held in July & August*

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)