



## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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**ADULT FORUM**—The last time I met with the Forum we were discussing humor. We called it - heavenly humor. We will conclude that topic

today. Since at this moment we're in a worshipful mood: did you know King David got so caught up in worship that he came dancing into town in his underwear!? Add that to the list of things you can't do in church. Allow me to clarify - when discussing heavenly humor, we're not discussing slapstick comedy. We are pondering a more nuanced Gospel variety. In a less humorous mood, the group will also be giving attention to a program advocated by our Presiding Bishop and 22 other church leaders. It's called "Reclaiming Jesus." One of its promoters said: *As we approach Pentecost, it has become painfully obvious that a new effort is needed to take our faith to the streets — to remind Christians in the U.S. what followers of Jesus are called to believe, and therefore what we are also called to reject.* I don't know how I'm going to segue these two moods of discussion. What I can say is the Adult Forum is not shy about taking on light and heavy issues. And should you want to join them, we would welcome you (9-9:45) any time...whatever your mood! Ken Gorman



Current Events Study

Sometimes a new idea needs to evolve. The basic idea of "conTEXTS" remains the same. It's the scheduling that has changed. What has changed – conTEXTS will meet on Wednesdays (excluding SWEEP Wednesday), beginning May 16th, from 6:30—7:30 pm. Those interested in this new program are invited to meet today after the 10 AM Eucharist in the chapel and we'll discuss it further. kg

What is conTEXTS? What that word means -*The content of the news meets the texts of our faith.* Church folks often bring up some current event that has caught their attention and want to discuss it as a faith issue. Up until now, we haven't had a place or time to do that. That has changed. We are offering a weekly gathering of parishioners and friends to discuss a current event alongside resources of our faith (e.g., biblical, church resources).



**ANGELUS CONCERT**—On Sunday, May 6th, The Angelus Chorus will be performing at The Middle Township Performing Arts Center at 4 PM. The proceeds will be donated to The Branches. Tickets are only \$5 and can be purchased today from the ushers and Sandra Lockhart or at The Branches until Wednesday. If you would like to reserve tickets, please call: 609-886-5091. We are very grateful that The Branches has been chosen to be the recipient of this wonderful event! Thank you Angelus Chorus!

### Priest in Charge

The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B. Stube

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### Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Dr. W. Kenneth Gorman

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David Joseph Condo, Music Director

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Julie Taylor, Parish Administrator

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### This week at St. Mary's, April 29, 2018

**TODAY** 9 AM Adult Forum

11 AM conTEXTS meeting

**MON** 11 AM Eucharist at The Branches

**TUES** 8 PM AA meeting

**WEDS** 5 PM Choir

6:30 PM conTEXTS

**FRI** 10 am Alanon

**SUN** 9 am Adult Forum

**FORWARD DAY BY DAY**—large print and small size booklets for May, June and July are available on the table and in the wall rack in the church narthex. Please help yourself.

### UPCOMING in May

#### SWEEP Meeting

Wednesday, May 9,

6:30 pm - Agenda:

Pentecost, Strawberry

Festival and summer events

#### St. Mary's Seniors Luncheon Club

**Meeting** Thursday, May 10, 11 AM

Our guest speaker will be an accountant who will discuss the new tax laws.

conTEXTS will begin Wednesday, May 16th from 6:30—7:30 pm





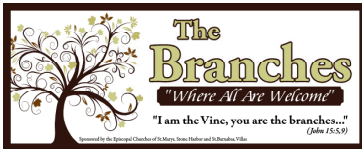
**NURSERY CARE** - We would like to provide nursery care for children on Sundays especially once summer arrives.

**USHERS**—Like to be an usher? We have openings available for men and women.

**FLOWER DELIVERY**—Would you like to deliver the altar flowers on Mondays to parishioners?

Let the church office know if you can help with any of the above. Thank you!

**COFFEE HOUR**—A sign up sheet for the upcoming months is posted on the door to the kitchen. Everyone enjoys coffee hour! Why not make your fellow parishioners happy and sign up today. No need to make it fancy, just coffee and something to go with it is perfect. Thanks!



**News from The Branches (in case you missed last Sunday)**

We are very pleased that Menz Restaurant has joined our food service program. Every Monday they deliver an abundance of really wonderful food to The Branches to be enjoyed by our guests.

We were able to help an abused mom with two children. A restraining order was dropped by the court and she had to leave her home, without food, clothes and the necessities of life. The Branches was able to provide food, clothes, diapers, baby food, toiletries and transportation to a new location.

Our wonderful advocate Linda, spoke to a group of Girl Scouts about homelessness. She did the same thing for a group of seniors. It's so important to raise the level of awareness about a problem of which many are unaware. Linda was also in court twice advocating for our guests. A very busy week for a dedicated lady!

Stop in and pay us a visit at Branches. Join us for lunch. Meet our guests. Follow us on Facebook. Lots of good things are happening!

**Happy Birthday!**



**Birthday Blessings to Shellie Tibbitts on April 30th, and Lillian Armstrong & Michele Seigel on May 5th!**

**St. Barnabas by the Bay Concert Series**— continues on Sunday, May 7th at 3 pm with Carlos Bedoya, Classical Guitar. Reception to follow. A free will offering will be taken. 13 West Bates Ave., Villas 609-886-5960



**GARDEN CLUB OF STONE HARBOR ANNUAL PLANT SALE**— Saturday, May 12th from 8 am to 2 pm and Sunday, May 13th, 9 am to 12 noon, will take place at the Stone Harbor Firehouse, 96th & 2nd Ave. Bake Sale on Saturday only.



**St. Mary's This 'n That Thrift Shop** is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 to 4 pm.

Please remember our thrift shop when you are cleaning out your closets. Your donations of gently used clothing, household items and furniture may be brought to the shops in Rio Grande or call for a pick up. *Volunteers are always needed and welcome!* Talk to our store manager, Debbie 886-7272 if you can give an hour or two of your time. Thank you!

The Branches and the thrift shop are both located in the Village Shoppes, 1304 Rt. 47 South, Rio Grande, NJ



**Re you new or visiting with us? We're glad you are here!** We would love to be able to welcome you more personally. If you would like that as well, please ... Fill out a welcome card. These are located in each of the pews. You may place it into the offering plate or hand it to any of our ushers, greeters, or liturgical assistants. Also, please take a welcome packet & sign our guestbook on your way out of church.

**Holy Communion** Here at St. Mary's, everyone is welcome to join us for Holy Communion. Consecrated grape juice and gluten-free hosts are available. Please tell our Eucharistic Minister when you come to the rail. Should you wish to receive a simple blessing, please indicate that by crossing your arms across your chest.