



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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ADULT FORUM - This morning the Adult Forum resumes where it left off on Palm Sunday. Our Lenten reading, *The Last Week*, prompted moving conversation and raised some questions about what we believe. Today we will review what we discussed and then plan ahead. But first. What's so valuable about these Forum opportunities? Could an answer to that have something to do with today's story of "doubting" Thomas? I've been told that Jesus' life, death and resurrection are simple matters of faith and not something we should even question. We simply have to believe. We should never question God because it demonstrates that we don't trust God, which shows that our faith is not strong. I have great respect for those people who can make that kind of a leap of faith, and who don't appear to have any questions or doubts hiding somewhere in the deep recesses of their mind and hearts. But without discussions about alternatives and the uncertain certainties of faith, we simply obey and do what we are told. When we stand in the middle of our doubts and questions, when we look around at everything happening in our world that creates such pain and inequality, when we live in that world...but look at our God and his Son and say, "I choose to believe in you," that is a real blessing! Our time together provides an opportunity to ask questions, voice doubts, and then choose to believe. I relish our time together; I respect the honesty of our conversations; I trust that whatever our age, faith grows. I encourage you to join us Sundays, 9-9:45 in the chapel. *Ken Gorman*

Priest in Charge

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This week at St. Mary's, April 8, 2018

TODAY 9 AM Adult Forum

MON 11 AM Eucharist at The Branches
5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

TUES 8 PM AA meeting

WEDS 5 PM Choir
6:30 pm SWEEP

THURS 11 am St. Mary's Seniors
Luncheon Club Meeting

FRI 10 am Alanon

SUN 9 am Adult Forum

Service
Worship
Education
Evangalism
Pastoral care

The April meeting of SWEEP is this Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the chapel, and YOU are invited.

What is SWEEP? It is a combined, coordinated, collaborating gathering of parishioners at St. Mary's that meets regularly to examine, assess, plan and promote five important ministries of this church: Service, Worship, Education, Evangelism, and Pastoral Care. Please plan to come to the meeting!

circle April 12 on your calendar

for the St. Mary's Seniors Luncheon Club April meeting

Agenda
Fun and Games 11 am to 1 pm

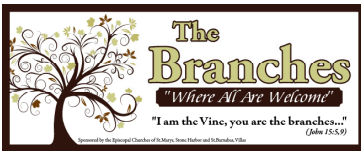
Bring a bag lunch

Desserts and Beverages will be provided

Bring a game to share

friends

WELCOME



News from The Branches

We are very excited this week, because one of our guests got a job! This gentleman has been living in the woods all winter, keeping warm with sterno. He updated his resume at our computer station and has been faithfully applying for jobs for months. He starts on April 5th and we at Branches are thrilled beyond words.

Last week, one of our volunteers and her yoga group made and delivered 24 Easter baskets to the children at The Beach House Motel. What an excited bunch of kids!

We now have four volunteers acting as advocates for our guests. They help with Social Services, housing issues and job placement to mention a few of the many issues they tackle. We are blessed with wonderful, dedicated volunteers.

Father Peter does Bible study on Monday. Recently two of our guests were baptized. On Tuesday, we have a volunteer chiropractor and on Thursday a yoga instructor leads a group. We also have two volunteer hair stylists who come each month. 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!

PARISH DIRECTORY—New directories have been printed. They are available on the table in the narthex and parish hall. Please help yourself. If you would like to be added or have a correction to your information, please let the church office know.



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 at The Branches or through the church office. 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!



St. Mary's This n' That Thrift Shop will be

holding a yard sale in their parking lot on Saturday, April 28th from 10 to 3 pm to benefit The Branches. Food and Fun for All!



Baked goods will be sold by The Branches at the thrift shop Yard Sale. Please help out by baking something for us to sell. You may bring your dessert to The Branches or to the kitchen at St. Mary's by Saturday, April 28th. Thank you!!

HELP WANTED!



NURSERY CARE

We would like to provide nursery care for children on Sundays.

USHERS

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

Let the church office know if you can help.

Happy Birthday!



Birthday Blessings to Kate Rodriguez on April 2nd, Colin Milio on April 7th, Carole Diller on April 8th, and Ashley Stout on April 13th!

YELP—St. Mary's can be found on YELP. If you would like to give us a good review, it would help move us to the top of the list. Thanks!

Go to www.yelp.com and search for churches near me. <https://www.yelp.com/biz/st-marys-episcopal-church-stone-harbor?osq=Churches+Near+Me>



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.