
Subject: What's Happening at St. Mary's

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What's Happening at St. Mary's
August 2016

Bill Haines, Editor



Blessing of the Backpacks

Saturday, August 20th, 11 AM at St. Barnabas, Villas

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our School Supplies Drive. Special Thanks to Dina Ziembra for chairing this event.

All students, teachers, aides, nurses, bus drivers, custodians, and parents are invited to come for a special blessing to begin the new school year on Saturday at St. Barnabas, Villas

Printed in the insert from Sunday's Church Bulletin dated August 7.

The Rev. Victoria Pretti has resigned from St. Mary's Stone Harbor effective August 31, 2016. She has accepted the call of St. Mary's by-the-Sea, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ, and will begin her ministry there on September 1, 2016. We are thankful for Mother Victoria and her husband, Anthony, and for their time with us, and we pray for God's blessings in her new ministry.

The mission and ministry of our church will continue as it has always thanks to the love and dedication of our Wardens, Vestry and faithful congregation. A Priest-in-Charge will be called in the very near future. Information regarding this transition and call will be posted on our website, forwarded to our members via e-mail, and placed in the Sunday announcements.

Upon reading the announcement, I suddenly recalled a vestry retreat where Pastor Debra shared with us an analogy of a trapeze artist who wants to soar higher and a church who wants to do likewise. In order to go higher the artist has to let go of the rung he is clinging to and have faith that the rung he is reaching for will be there and he will be able to grasp it. He has faith that the other artist released the intended rung at the right time and at the right speed. The trapeze artist never looks back. He remembers where he was, but realizes the future is in front of him. Letting go requires a lot of faith. We are not trapeze artists. We are a church, but we can't live in the past. St. Mary's has a history of letting go of the past and embracing the future. We have faith in God and, hopefully, God has faith in us.



Choir Appreciation Sunday

On August 7 we celebrated our choir, bell choir and Music Director. Recognized at our Pot Luck Brunch were David Condo, Musical Director, Bell Choir members Ann Albright, Lillian Armstrong, Holly Best, Joan Langston, Serena Smith, and Jenna Ziemba. Our Adult Choir members are Lillian Armstrong, Cheryl Barton,



Karin Hampel, Mike Kelley, Joan Langston, Fr. Ron Lockhart, Susan Mayfair, Tim Noble, Betty Papastavros, Larry Schmidt, Cynthia Schweickhardt, Beverly Waldron, Bill Waldron,

and Dina Ziemba. Thank you all for sharing your talents with us and enhancing our worship services.

In other news...

Thursday, August 11 was our final Thursday on the Lawn concert featuring Jim Bannach of BLT. Heartfelt thanks to Marion Myers for organizing the concerts and all who provided lemonade and cookies.

Worship at the Beach with Eucharist continues every Saturday during August at 5pm at the 101st Street Pavilion. Bring a beach chair and "come as you are," to enjoy worship in a beautiful setting.

Saint Mary's will be host church for Family Promise during the week of September 4. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for the days St. Mary's need volunteers.

Parish Life is planning a covered dish dinner on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 6pm. Bring your favorite dish and invite friends to share in our fellowship.

Fr. Gorman is leading Adult Forum every Sunday at 9 am. Bring your coffee and meet him in the chapel for study and discussion.

Stewardship: Some might say, "I'd like to remember St. Mary's, but I don't have an estate." If you own anything, jewelry, a car, a life insurance policy, you have an estate. A life insurance policy is a simple way to continue your stewardship. If you have an existing policy that you feel you don't need, make St. Mary's the beneficiary. You can purchase a new policy with the church as beneficiary and your premiums are tax deductible.

Have you remembered St. Mary's in your will?

Do you know Yvonne & Jack Olthuis?

Yvonne and Jack are both New Jersey natives. Yvonne is a South Jersey native. She was born at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point and grew up in Cape May County. Jack was born and raised in Midland Park. Yvonne pursued a career in nursing and Jack graduated from the Coast Guard Academy and retired as a Commander in the Coast Guard.

Jack's first assignment was at the Coast Guard base in Cape May, where he participated in the largest drug bust in the history of New Jersey, 11 tons.

Jack's friend was dating Yvonne's sister and they thought Yvonne and Jack should meet. It was not a Cinderella, Prince Charming encounter. However, a short time later Yvonne's sister was getting

married and she needed an escort to the wedding. Jack was available. I'm not sure if it was the setting or fate, but the sparks flew. Jack proposed at Home Coming at the Coast Guard Academy and they were married within a year at Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in Cape May. It was a "Sacred Heart Wedding." All the guys wore white and the girls red.

Yvonne and Jack have three children, Elisa, Jamie and Garrett. They have a granddaughter, Breanna.

How did a Roman Catholic and a member of the Dutch Reformed Church become Episcopalians? They were living in Mobile, Alabama where Jack was stationed. He was driving home on Christmas Eve day and passed the Episcopal church he passed every day. Jack doesn't know why, but he was drawn into the parking lot. The priest was the only person there. Jack went home and said they should go to church on Christmas Eve. Jack and Yvonne



were both comfortable with the Episcopal Church. Jack didn't have to be concerned about the infallibility of the Pope and the liturgy was familiar to Yvonne. Later Yvonne was Received and Jack Confirmed into the Episcopal faith. They became actively involved with churches in Governor's Island, NY and Morehead City, NC. Jack became a Eucharistic Minister at both churches. In 1996 Jack returned to Cape May for a two year tour. They purchased a home in Middle Township. Jack's next assignment is back to Governor's Island, but the children were now in high school and the family decided to remain in Cape May Court House with Jack commuting. At the end of his tour, Jack was offered a job in New York and retired from the Coast Guard.

They met Fr. John and Cynthia and formed a relationship that led to them becoming members of St. Mary's. John serves as Eucharistic Minister both at the church and Worship at the Beach. He also served as Treasurer. I believe Yvonne holds the modern record for consecutive terms on the vestry. She was elected to a three year term on the vestry but as her term ended another member of the vestry moved and Yvonne agreed to complete his term. Do you believe the same thing happened a second time and again Yvonne stepped forward. Yvonne also serves on the Branches Committee and was a member of the Search Committee. She is also a greeter at the 8 am service and is one of our best Coffee Hour hostesses.

When asked what St. Mary's has done for you, they replied St. Mary's provides spiritual involvement and keeps them centered spiritually. They enjoy being a member of the church family. Jack is looking to be more involved in St. Mary's after he retires.

St. Mary's Sidewalk Sale

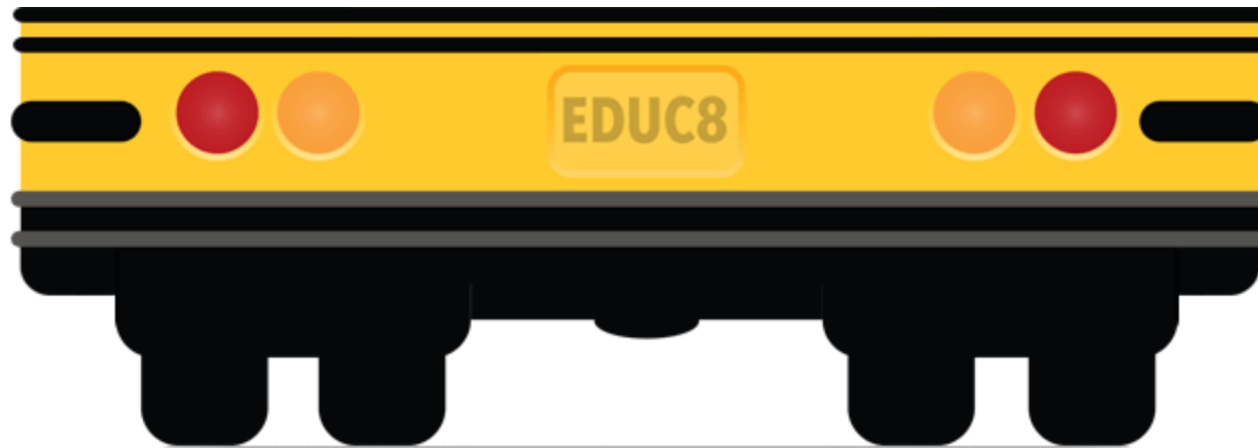
Saturday, August 27th, 9 am to 1 pm

(The same day as Stone Harbor's famous Merchant Day Sale)

Theme baskets, Bake Table, Jewelry Table, Children's Face Painting,
Food Court & More!

Are you crafty? Do you have a great idea for a basket to auction? Make homemade preserves, pasta sauce or yummy desserts? How about extra jewelry you have no intention of ever wearing again? Do you know someone who can face paint? If so, there's a sign up sheet on the parish hall bulletin board and we'd love to have your name on it.

We're also renting tables. \$25 gets you a table where you can sell your own things. St. Mary's front lawn is the ideal location, lots of foot traffic, right in the heart of it all. Call 609-368-5922 to reserve one.



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