

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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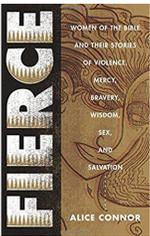
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**HOLY EUCHARISTS of the SEASON OF CREATION** continue through Epiphany. Fr. Peter will lead us in following the role of Jesus, while He walked with friends on the roads around Jerusalem, inviting all to encounter God through God's presence in creation. The spiritual journey of following Jesus is closely tied to the wonders of nature that He experienced in His earthly journey. During this Season of Creation, we will strive to more deeply understand the lessons Jesus taught us through creation, to better honor our Creator, and share fellowship with brothers and sisters along the way.

## Annual Meeting

**SUNDAY January 27, 2019** There will be one service at 9 am followed by a Potluck Brunch and the Parish Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend, and if possible, bring something to share for the potluck brunch. We thank the

following candidates for agreeing to serve: for Sr. Warden, Jack Olthuis; for Jr. Warden, Lou Schweickhardt; for Vestry, Sandra Lockhart and Hilton Rodriguez; as Delegates to the Convention, Larry Schmidt and Cheryl Barton, and Cynthia Schweickhardt as an Alternate Delegate. Their biographies are posted in the parish hall.



Something we rarely do, but because of last Sunday's weather we are repeating the chapter and discussion.) We don't choose our family. We are born into it. Sometimes we are lucky enough to be born into a truly loving and supportive family. On the other hand, our friends, our close friends, are the family we choose. Learning to

select the right people to be in our "chosen" family can be one of the most important things we will do in our life. Who do you think were Jesus' chosen family? The emphasis is on "chosen." His siblings? They weren't chosen. His disciples? Well, he did choose them, and he did spend much of his time with them, but they were more followers than family. This morning in the Adult Forum where we are following Alice Conner's portrayal of some biblically fierce women, Alice Conner makes the claim as to who was Jesus' chosen family. Want to know who they were? Join us in the chapel, 9-9:45 today. kg

## CODE BLUE

The Branches is open 12 hours a day during this time of extreme cold. The homeless are given shelter when a Code Blue is called, however, they are put on the street at 6 am and not allowed into shelters until after 6 pm. That leaves a gap when they are outside in the cold and when The

Branches comes to their aid. We are in need of longjohns, food—soups, stews, casseroles, sandwiches, bread, cold cuts, water. Also volunteers to help cover the extra hours they are open during a Code Blue. Please call Sandra Lockhart if you can give an hour or two to help in the morning or evening. 484-888-1591 or at The Branches 609-886-5091.

### Priest in Charge

The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B. Stube

cell: 610-304-2539

e-mail: stmarysrector@hotmail.com

rectory: 609-830-5077

### Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Dr. W. Kenneth Gorman

e-mail: k-gorman@comcast.net

David Joseph Condo, Music Director

e-mail: StMarysStoneHarbor@yahoo.com

Julie Taylor, Parish Administrator

e-mail: jultaylor9425@yahoo.com

This week at St. Mary's, January 20

**TODAY** 9 am Adult Forum

**MON** 11am Eucharist at The Branches  
7 pm Vestry Meeting

**TUES** 8 pm AA

**WED** 5 pm Choir  
6 pm conTEXTS

**FRI** 10 am Alanon

**SUN One Service at 9 AM, Parish Potluck and Parish Annual Meeting**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2019**—are available on the table in the parish hall. Please look for yours. If you do not use envelopes and would like to, please let the church office know.



We're looking for lectors, greeters, ushers and Eucharistic Ministers. Training will be available. Call the church office to find out more.

I have often said that I prefer, in general, not to have political news as the basis for conTEXTS and I try to stay with that position. But because conTEXTS is a news-driven discussion, and because some news broadly affects the nation as a whole, there come times when to exclude certain news solely because it's from the political arena is akin to ignoring the proverbial elephant in the room. It seems to me that the partial government shutdown, now the longest in U.S. history, is one such story. However, I also believe that it can be used in a nonpolitical way as the basis for discussion, and that's what I intend to do. A primary spiritual question of the shutdown is, "When do you stick to your principles, and when do you compromise?" We understand that both sides in the shutdown struggle are dug in over the issue of the border wall. But rather than get into partisan arguments about who is right and who is wrong on that issue, our group will look for some biblical guidance on the matter of compromise that we can apply to the struggles of our personal lives and relationships -- and hope that by the time our folks come to this particular gathering (Wednesday, January 23, 6:30-7:30 pm in the parish hall), those with power to end the government shutdown have found the will to do so and a way to make it happen. If you would like to discuss this issue from the perspective I have just offered, please join us. kg

**FEBRUARY 14 SENIOR LUNCH CLUB MEETING, 11 AM SHARP**— Chef Kalla of The Lobster House will join us for a special meeting. He will prepare, share recipes, and serve a lunch with a Valentine's Day Chocolate theme. \$10 per person. Only 24 spots are available. A sign up sheet is on the parish hall bulletin board.



**ALTAR FLOWER CHART**—for 2019 is posted in the narthex. If you would like to give flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please sign up on the chart and send a check in the amount of \$45 with "altar flowers" in the memo line. It's a wonderful way to honor family and friends throughout the year!

**FAMILY PROMISE**—As a host congregation, we are invited to attend their 10 Year Anniversary celebration luncheon on Sunday, Jan. 27th at 1:30 to be held at Avalon Links. Lunch \$20. RSVP by Jan. 21 to 609-846-7862 x 9. See the parish hall bulletin board flyer.

**A FREE SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES** will be held at St. Barnabas, Villas, beginning today at 3 pm with Thomas Werkheiser. More details and a flyer listing future concerts may be found on the parish hall bulletin board.



My main purpose here is to thank all St. Mary's folks who supported yesterday's celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. I don't have to name them specifically, they know who they are...and I certainly do. Just to refresh your memory: yesterday was a first-time-event when we invited members of the Seven Mile Island Churches to St. Mary's to become better acquainted with each other. It was done in the context of a ceremony created by people who have been doing this for a hundred years. Dear friends, it's no secret – we're all struggling as Christians (even mega-churches are feeling the pinch). But we did not gather to commiserate but celebrate our common faith. And we did that! It's one of the reasons that I can proudly say: "I'm a member of St. Mary's Stone Harbor!" kg

**COFFEE HOUR SHEETS** for the upcoming months are posted on the door to the kitchen. We all enjoy coffee hour so please pick a Sunday and sign up today. Your fellow parishioners will love you for it!



St. Mary's will host a family from the **FAMILY PROMISE PROGRAM** the week of Feb. 10th.

Our days to provide for the family will be Sunday, Feb. 10th and Saturday Feb. 16th. Please plan to help with dinners, social time and sleep over. A sign up sheet is on the parish hall bulletin board. Thank you!

*Birthday Blessings to Barbara Eckhardt, Susan Dowling, & Ruth Ann Handley on Jan. 22nd, and Peter Stube on Jan. 23rd!*

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

As is required by Diocesan Canon and State Statute, it is hereby announced -  
The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of St. Mary's Parish in Stone Harbor, NJ will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall (or when a quorum is present). The purpose of the meeting is to review the budget for 2019, elect parish officers, and transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Ms. Cheryl L. Barton, Clerk of the Vestry  
(Diocesan Canon 90; New Jersey Revised Statutes 16: 12-1)