

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

9425 Third Ave., Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

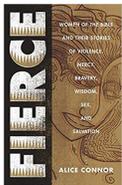
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Next Sunday (November 4) is All Saints' Sunday. As mentioned last week, we would like to personalize All Saints' Sunday for you by remembering the names of your loved ones, now in God's Kingdom. Here's how we will do that:

- 1) you can write the names of your loved ones (no limit) in our All Saints' Memorial Book that will be found in the parish hall today; and
- 2) you may bring a framed picture for the sanctuary. Please leave your framed picture in the church office this week. Next Sunday the Memorial Book will be placed on the Altar and I will offer a prayer for all those whose names have been listed in the Memorial Book. kg



In the United States we live longer, but aging eventually catches us, and it creates a surplus of women who outlive their partners. According to the 2010 census, there were more than 11 million widows compared to three million widowers in the United States. About 700,000 women become widowed each year. Over 10 years, that makes 7 million widows. The 2020 census may well show an increased number. In this morning's Adult Forum, Alice Connor takes us into the world of widows both in Biblical times and our own. What was it like...what is it like now...to be a widow? What you might learn could surprise you! Here's the issue: given the clear and consistent message of the Bible for such vulnerable people, what should our commitment be these days to these folks? We will discuss all of this in this morning's gathering of the Forum (9-9:45am, chapel). Every Sunday, and most Wednesdays, we provide an opportunity for you to share in some fascinating and enlightening conversation. If you're interested, there is always a chair waiting. kg

This past Monday, Eugene Peterson, the bestselling author known for "The Message," a wonderful paraphrase of the Bible, died at the age of 85. That news reminded me of a phrase he used to describe Christian discipleship: "a long obedience in the same direction." Peterson's use of that phrase gives us an opportunity to consider what it means to live in faithfulness to God and to persevere in the way of Christ. So that will be the topic of this Wednesday's conTEXTS. As usual, we meet in the parish hall from 6:30-7:30 pm. kg



St. Mary's Seniors Luncheon Club Meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 8th at 11 AM in the Parish Hall. Our guest speaker will present a music program called "Down Memory Lane - Doo Wop." Bring your bag lunch, bring a friend. We are requesting a \$5 voluntary contribution toward a fund for current and future speaker fees.

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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Julie Taylor, Parish Administrator

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This week at St. Mary's Oct. 28, 2018

TODAY 9 am Adult Forum

MON 11 am Branches Eucharist

TUES 8 pm AA meeting

WEDS 5 pm Choir
6:30 pm conTEXTS

FRI 10 am Alanon

SUN All Saints' Sunday

9 am Adult Forum

11 am Congregational Meeting



Birthday Blessings to Ashley Seigel on Oct. 30th, Grace Repp & Larry Schmidt on Nov. 1st, and Linda Hendee on Nov. 3rd!

PARISH DIRECTORY—Updated

directories have been printed and are available in the narthex and parish hall. Please help yourself. If you are not in the directory and would like to be, or If your information needs correction, please let the church office know.



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 4th at 2 AM.



Please plan to join us next Sunday, November 4th after the 10 AM Service for our first congregational meeting with the Discernment Committee. If you missed the letter from Chair Janet Proulx, please read on.

Do we have a say in choosing our next Rector?



As part of the process of discernment towards calling a new Rector for St. Mary's, your Discernment Committee is inviting and encouraging you to participate in **Congregational Conversations**.

Rhonda Jackson, our Diocesan Consultant, will lead us in organized, small group discussions that will enable every voice in the congregation to be heard as we develop St. Mary's profile that will be used to attract potential candidates to our church. **THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT PROFILE.**

In an effort to keep all of you informed of our progress as we move through the tasks leading up to calling and welcoming a new Rector, we will be sending out periodic emails with updates as we move through each task (to the limit allowed by the Diocese).

First steps have already started:

- Vestry and Discernment Committee Orientation was completed on Sunday, October 14th.
- Commissioning Discernment Committee – This will be held at the 10:00 AM service on October 28th.
- Congregational Conversation – October 28th after the 10:00 AM service

Next Steps:

- Anti-racial training for Vestry and Committee – Date TBD
- Financial Audit and Building Inspections
- Update Parish Directory – perhaps with photos
- Information gathering to develop and upgrade our church Profile.
- Complete information for the Office of Transition Ministry, Episcopal Digital Network and Transition Ministry Network and post to St. Mary's Website.
- Based on potential candidate responses received, determine if further “advertising” is needed.
- Maintain Confidentiality

Time to Look at Candidates:

- Construct Applicant Screening Questions
- Communicate steps in the process to candidates and our congregation.
- Compile Interview Questions
- Screen and Interview Candidates
- Select two-three Candidates
- Maintain Confidentiality

Final Steps:

- Recommend Candidates to the Vestry
- Vestry will notify the Bishop of the selected candidate
- Bishop will make the call

A New Beginning:

- Prepare for arrival of our new Rector – celebration, hospitality, rectory, etc.

As Chairman of the Discernment Committee, I ask that each of you support your committee by sharing your concerns and ideas, and, most importantly, with your prayers that the Holy Spirit is with us during this process so that we call a Rector “meant to be” for St. Mary's. And remember . . . “don't fear change”. We can adapt to it!!

Janet Proulx, Chairman

for the Discernment Committee