



Saint Mary's Episcopal Church



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH! Sunday, May 20 is The Day of Pentecost or Whitsunday to some. Pentecost, the day the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and were able to speak different languages and shared the Good News. The Church grew from Jerusalem to most of the known world before the Apostles, Paul, and other early "Christians" died. Now that's church growth! So break out your best red outfit and join us for a festive celebration. I understand a great day is planned.

"Lord when we stand gazing upwards - bring us down to earth . . . With a love that calls us into action, With a zeal to change the world for the better, With a courage to follow in your way even when things seem too fantastic to believe. With thankfulness for the good things in life ... fun ... food ... and these good times." Amen.

Father Gorman wrote the above prayer for a short meditation we shared on Ascension Day at our senior luncheon. He also wrote, " At times, when things get too fantastic... some folks are easily confused or afraid. It reminds me that when we feel that things are out of control, or when they feel helpless to overcome the problems at hand, people. . . present company excluded... resort to "pie in the sky" religion. They look for Jesus to come and fix what they can't fix for themselves." He concluded with, "Personally, I know I have to do my best and work my hardest in this world, to be the Christian God wants me to be. I'm not asking God to do for me what I should be doing for myself and others. I'm not looking for "pie in the sky." And I imagine, that's true for you, too. But as I live in faith from day to day, it's nice to know my Lord is there."

In keeping with the "pie in the sky" theme, Father Gorman provided three delicious pies. Thank you Father Gorman.

Matt Dowling was successful in securing a guest speaker from the firm that did St. Mary's audit. Bob spoke on the new tax law, Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. In the hand-out Bob provided was the following paragraph. "The IRA Charitable Rollover tax benefits for those that qualify. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals who are 70 1/2 years old to donate up to \$100,000 to charitable organizations directly from their IRA, without that donation being counted as taxable income when it is withdrawn. To qualify, contributions must come from a traditional IRA

or Roth IRA, and they must be made directly to a qualified charitable organization. Additionally, the donor may not receive goods or services in exchange for the donation, and they must retain a receipt from each charity to which a donation is made." Also, if we're 70 1/2 and own one of the above IRA's, we must have a Required Minimum Deduction (RMD) withdrawn every year. We could donate our RMD directly to St. Mary's and pay no income tax on the RMD. So, if you have an extra \$100,000 in you're IRA? Seriously, if you haven't withdrawn your RMD or would like to donate a gift to St. Mary's tax free, you might want to consider this option. Bob stated, "Biggest advantage is that it could help avoid the Medicare high income surcharge or help make your Social Security Benefits less taxable." Thank you Bob and Matt.

The last event for the senior luncheon is Bach's Lunch at the Emlen Physick Estate on June 13. Our appreciation to Loriei and George for sponsoring the Senior Lunch Program and many thanks to all who attended throughout the year. I believe we'll start up again in October.

The Adult Forum continues between the services in the chapel. The group completed discussing "Reclaiming Jesus" and will begin reading and discussing, "Loving the Questions" authored by Marianne Micks. The book is a series of reflections on the questions raised by the Nicene Creed. As usual, Father Gorman will be our moderator. Feel free to join us.

SWEEP met in April and suggested St. Mary's begin a 5 o'clock Saturday evening service in the church beginning in June. Peter recommended and the vestry agreed to continue the Saturday Evening Beach Service beginning on July 7 at 5 pm. During the summer, we will gather information from those attending about the feasibility of continuing the service in September. Based on the data received, a decision will be made to continue or discontinue the service in the fall.

At the May meeting, Father Gorman announced the first meeting of conTEXTS will begin on May 16 at 6:30 pm in the chapel and will continue every Wednesday through the summer and perhaps beyond. The artistic and capable Julie designed a new tri-fold presenting who we are. She also designed new outdoor summer banners to let the community know what's happening at St. Mary's. To keep the public informed, a new lawn box was ordered which will house the new brochures and other information concerning activities at St. Mary's. Father Gorman has been following up on visitors who sign our guest books or complete pew cards. Three new members have joined the church and some are singing in the choir. We still need a volunteer(s) to provide nursery care during the 10 am service. The proceeds from our Strawberry Festival in June will be donated to our music program. The next SWEEP meeting will

be on June 13 at 6:30 pm in the chapel. You're all welcome!

The Branches continues to advocate for the less fortunate, helping people find housing as well as jobs, and providing food and other services. The proceeds from the Angelus Chorus Concert on May 6 was donated to The Branches. Heartfelt thanks to the Chorus!

I understand the "sidewalk sale" at the Thrift Shop was successful. Contributions continue to flow in. If you would like to volunteer in an air conditioned facility, St. Mary's Thrift Shop might be the place for you.

