



What's Happening at St. Mary's

March 2017
Bill Haines, Editor

St. Mary's Lenten Soup and Study under the direction of Peter will be held every Tuesday during Lent beginning with Stations of the Cross at 5:30 and continuing with a light Soup, Salad and Bread supper at 6 pm. The study is inspired by the Anglican "Marks of Mission" and will focus on God's presence and activity in our lives. If you are unable to join us, you can download the entire series at www.5marksoflove.org and receive a daily email with a video and a question. You can use the series for your personal Lenten study and reflection. All materials and videos are free online and as downloads.

Father Gorman is conducting our Adult Forum between services every Sunday during Lent. The group decided to use the book, Half Truths by Adam Hamilton as our resource. Considering the political climate, this study is very apropos. The clergy are doing their part to make this a memorable Lenten season for us. Will we do our part?

George Zitnay is chairing a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 11 from 8 to 11:30. Volunteers are needed and there is a sign up sheet in the parish hall. All proceeds will be donated to Family Promise.

Speaking of Family Promise, St. Mary's was host church from March 4 to 11. Three families were our guests, a mother with triplets, a grandfather and granddaughter, age 11, and a mom with her daughter, age 12. On behalf of our guests, I want to thank Joan Langston, parishioners from St. Mary's and the other churches who support this mission by providing meals, socializing

with the parents, playing with the children, and sleeping over.

A successful fundraiser for The Branches sponsored by A Voice for the Homeless of Cape May County was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May on Sunday, March 5.

St. Mary's Church School had a terrific Souper Bowl Sunday. \$328 was raised and donated to The Branches and the local animal shelter. On March 10-11th, 19 children will be having a Lock-In at St. Mary's. I don't know the details, but it sounds exciting.

Hilton Rodriguez, Larry Schmidt, Lillian Armstrong, Sue Dowling, Yvonne Olthuis, Joan Langston, Susan Mayfair, Debbie Smith, Sandra Lockhart, Tim Noble and Peter Stube are members of St. Mary's outreach task force. Our prayers and gratitude are extended to them for leading this valuable ministry.

Circle May 6 on your calendar. This is the date of our third Annual Kentucky Derby Day Party which will be held at beautiful Pembroke Farm. The party will include great music, catered hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and the race on the big screen. With your \$40 donation, you will also receive a Mint Julep served in an Official Kentucky Derby Glass. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you at the gala which will begin at 3:30 pm. Janet Proulx is the chair and the event will benefit The Branches.

The Branches and St. Mary's Thrift Shop continue serving and ministering to the needs of our community. An hour or two or three of your time would be greatly appreciated at both facilities.

Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? Lent, a time for reflection, introspection, and contemplation. The above four questions I found while reading a tract on year-round stewardship. Stewardship is not just about money. Stewardship defines who I am.

At Baptism I was "Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own for ever." And so were you! We were made members of the Body of Christ. That's an awesome responsibility. I was baptized as an infant and had no awareness of what my parents, godparents and the entire congregation renounced and proclaimed on my behalf.

Like you, and even Jesus, I grew into my faith. The church was always an integral part of growing up, but I didn't know anything about stewardship until I was elected to the vestry at my church in Philadelphia and was appointed to the Stewardship Committee. After attending a few stewardship symposiums, I discovered my ministry, stewardship. My limb of the Body of Christ.

Stewardship helps me in how I try to live my life, my relationships with family and friends, trying to share the "good news" of the gospel, concern about ecology, and of course, sharing of my temporal goods. All that I am and all that I have comes from You, O Lord.

The good news of Lent is repentance. I don't always do and say what I should, but Jesus forgives me. Not only does He forgive, He forgets. Oh, that I could do that.



Do you know Lillian Armstrong?

Lillian was born in Washington, DC, where her father, Jim, worked for the U. S. government, and her mother, Val, was a docent at the Smithsonian Museum. She considers herself a Jersey Girl because after Jim chose to move into the private sector, they moved from the Washington suburbs to New Jersey. While living in Morris Plains and

then Mendham, her family attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Morris Plains, which is where she received her first communion. She graduated from Mendham High School.

While in middle school she started playing the double bass and played in the orchestra (more like a band) and for musicals throughout high school. Her young career as a bassist included playing in the Delbarton School

Orchestra, summer stock at the Chester Theatre Group, and attending the Juilliard Pre-College Division in Manhattan (only because everyone needs a bass player, even Juilliard).

Lillian matriculated to Duke University and continued playing in the Duke Symphony. Lillian graduated from Duke with a B.A. degree in Public Policy. She then graduated from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke and received her MBA. Unfortunately, graduate school ended her career as a bassist. One can only do so much.

After graduation, her first job was working on Wall Street in Manhattan. She later accepted a position at another firm and was transferred to San Francisco. Lillian lived and worked for fourteen years in San Francisco.

Lillian is a cradle Episcopalian. The family attended St. Paul's Church in Morris Plains, and she attended Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Her parents, Valentine and Jim, enjoyed attending the services at Grace Cathedral whenever they were in California. After her parents moved to Cape May County, Lillian would attend St. Mary's when visiting. She was allowed to sing in the choir with her parents, which made her feel welcomed and at home. St. Mary's was her away from home church.

Lillian moved to our area in 2004 and accepted a position with New Jersey Audubon, a non-profit organization. Following in Valentine's and Jim's footsteps, Lillian became very active at St. Mary's. She's a choir member, chaired the finance committee and is presently Senior Warden. Asked what has St. Mary's given you, she replied dryly, "Many challenges as Senior Warden last year, but looking forward to this year." More importantly, she is extremely grateful for the support she received before, during and after her parents' deaths. And now, she especially

enjoys watching the children of St. Mary's grow into wonderful young adults, and then get driver's licenses and..., then go on to great things! Did I say she's a total cat lover? If you do know Lillian, you already know that! And, she is grateful to just sing in the choir, which beats carrying around a double bass.



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