

# The Bells

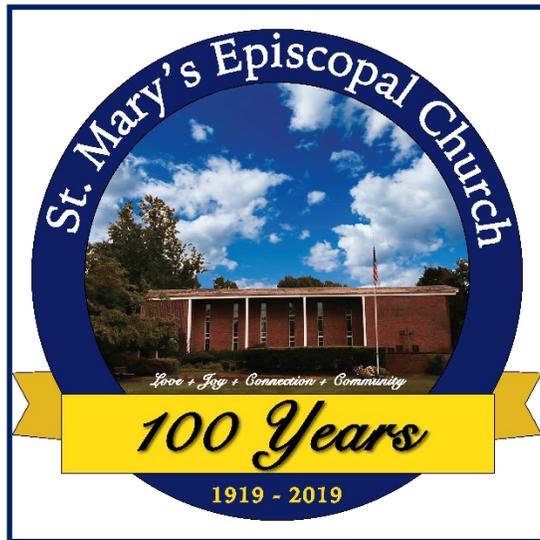
St. Mary's is an inclusive worship community that nurtures our relationship with God and reflects the love of Jesus by what we say and do.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SPARTA NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 2018

## *From the Rector:* Parish History Day

You may be asking, what is this Parish History Day we'll be observing on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>? Why just one service at 9 am that day? Well, here's the deal:



Easter 2019 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first service of what would become St. Mary's Parish. (Have you seen the logo that Brittany Rockenfeller designed?) We're going to throw a neighborhood celebration on May 4<sup>th</sup> to mark the occasion & reach out to the folks who live right around the church and those further afield in the community. I hope you've seen the call for photos and articles and other memorabilia that Joel Jennings (the

Centennial Celebration chairperson) and Elsa Schock and Sharon Rockenfeller have been making. I hope you're looking for those photos!

Those stories are important and help define what St. Mary's has been, what St. Mary's now is, and what St. Mary's *will* be in the future. And that's what the parish history day is about: sharing your

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stories of life at St. Mary's so we can highlight the life-giving values that are what being part of this parish is all about, so that we can build on them to carry St. Mary's into the future.

That story-telling will begin during the service on October 21<sup>st</sup>. It will continue after the service as we move to Shaffer Hall to make entries on a timeline and share what we have heard from one another. We'll have a catered luncheon that day because I want everyone to participate in the timeline and sharing—I don't want some folks working in the kitchen and not participating.

Which brings me to another point. Some of you reading this may not feel very connected to St. Mary's right now. Maybe you're a newcomer. Maybe you attend services only at Christmas or Easter. Maybe you attend only when you're reading in a service or making breakfast between services. Maybe you attend only when your work schedule permits. Maybe you've just gotten out of the habit of attending. Maybe you're upset about something that happened at church. **You are part of St. Mary's.** Your story matters, and I would **really** like you to attend the service and participate on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please look for the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex to note that you'll attend that day, or drop me an e-mail at [rector.dbw@stmaryssparta.org](mailto:rector.dbw@stmaryssparta.org) to let me know (please!) by **October 5<sup>th</sup>**. I hope you'll be there on the 21<sup>st</sup>!

In peace,  
Debbie

The Rev. Dr. Debra Brewin-Wilson  
Rector

# Keeping Up With Outreach

**Sparta Food Pantry:** The collection focus for October and November beginning with the Blessing of the Animals on October 7, 2018, is pet food.

**NAMI:** NAMI will provide training to family members of folks diagnosed with mental health issues in Shaffer Hall on Wednesday nights for 12 weeks beginning on September 12, 2018, except when Family Promise is here, when they will use the chapel.

**Ryan's Case for Smiles:** A pillow case making event will be held on October 28, 2018 at 2:00 pm. Participants will make a decorative pillow case from start to finish, beginning with selecting colorful fabrics for the pillow case body and cuff. Helpers walk participants through each step of the process, as needed. It does not matter if you have never sewn before or are an expert. Children going into the hospital with a serious condition then choose which colorful pillow case, which you made, to brighten their sterile white environment and reduce stress.

For more information, please visit <http://caseforsmiles.org>.



**Parish Centennial Planning:** St. Mary's parishioners will perform 100 little acts of kindness as part of the Parish Centennial. These will be documented on a board displayed at the centennial event. The Outreach committee would love to hear your ideas for an act of kindness. Please contact Jim Dalcourt at [jim.dalcourt@gmail.com](mailto:jim.dalcourt@gmail.com) or (973) 729-2374 with your ideas.

- October 7, 2018 – The Blessing of the Animals kick-off the Pet Food Ministry collection for Sparta Food Pantry.

**Save The Dates for Outreach:**

**October 9, 2018 through October 16, 2018 – St. Mary's hosts Family Promise guests.**

- November 17, 2018 9:00 am – Project Thanks prep at St. Mary's Shaffer Hall.
- November 18, 2018 12:00 pm – Project Thanks dinner at Knoll Heights.

**Next Outreach Committee Meeting:**

The October meeting will be on October 14, 2018.

# Women's Prayer Group



Every Friday @ 9am --10am

"The St. Mary's Episcopal~Women's Prayer Group meets in the Chapel."

**Welcome all!....**

(Just show up! ~  
Someone is always there!)

## OctoberSeaFest

A tradition lives on—Please join us at St. Mary's "OctoberSeaFest" on Saturday, October 27. This is a family fellowship event that is co-hosted by the Heitzman and Jennings families at the Jennings home, 9 Rose Lane, Sparta.

A broadened past menu will expand to an old fashion outdoor fire Lobster/clam bake with BBQ Bratwurst, sauerbraten and assorted Bavarian fare. As in previous years, a small flat fee will cover the main items combined with a sign up sheet to bring a salad, side or dessert. BYOB. Approximate start time 3:30 PM. Please watch for additional details and a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Enjoy the new school year.

Linda & Bob Heitzman; Claudia & Joel Jennings

## Update from the Vestry

### Vestry Highlights: September 2018 Meeting

1. Please save the date: Our first Centennial Spruce-Up event will be a painting party on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, to paint the hallway in the classroom wing.
2. The fall clean-up day (come dressed to work after each service) will be on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.
3. Pledge Ingathering Day will be Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.
4. Pledges fell behind over the summer; if you were away and are "catching up"—thank you! If your circumstances have changed, please get in touch with either our Treasurer, Jo-Ann Riley, or Mother Debbie. Thank you!

# Education News

A fantastic church school year began on September 16th with numerous children participating in Godly Play and Mustard Seed. Youth Education Class will begin on October 7th and will meet on the first and third Sunday of the month from 10:00 to 10:45. Brittany Rockenfeller and Andy Lopez have agreed to guide the youth. There are eight children at this time registered for the class. A Children's Service continues to be held on the last Sunday of the month with youth and children performing various needed capacities such as ushers, lectors and acolytes. The children's choir generally performs at this service. The Nursery hours have changed from 9-11am to 8-10am in hopes of attracting young families with recently baptized children. The Education Committee is energized and excited for a great year!

DON'T miss the  
Deadline !!!



If you have anything for *The Bells* it can be e-mailed to:  
**ding-a-ling@earthlink.net**

**Wanted:**  
**Photos, documents, and memorabilia of St. Mary's past 99 years**

Any items that represent special moments in our history are welcomed. We are looking to document our history by combining our incredible past into a virtual scrapbook. We have many recent items. Our files become thinner as we trace older decades. If you have photos, bulletins, programs or artifacts of past events, please give them to Elsa Schock or Sharon Rockenfeller. They will be returned to you. If you could possibly name and date the event and list people in photographs it would be very helpful. Please see Elsa or Sharon or contact them; their contact information is in the directory. Thanks!

# Parish Milestones



OCTOBER Birthdays	
Bob Scarpati	1
Michael Vandenberg	8
Joyce Morris	10
Jess Fergus	10
Bill Marshall	10
Paul Vandenberg	11
Andy Lopez	11
Nicholas Furgeson	12
Carol Lynch	13
Dan Riley	14
Kathy O'Brien	21
Kim Feijoo	22
George Reeves	23
John Rockenfeller	24
Josephine (Josie) Lopez	27
JoAnn Riley	27
Lee Roeder	30

OCTOBER Anniversaries	
Andy & Laura Lopez	6
Donald & Lauren Geiss	18
Cliff & Karen Cernek	22
Bill & Pat Kibildis	23
Charles & Barbara Gartland	29



# St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Love + Joy + Connection + Community

**The Reverend Dr. Debbie Brewin-Wilson**  
Rector

**Ellen Joyce**  
Parish Administrator

**Laura Lopez**  
Music Director

Kathy O'Brien  
**Senior Warden**

**2018**  
**VESTRY**

Lisa Staszak  
**Junior Warden**

Jim Dalcourt

Claudia Jennings

Betsy Kuntz

Elsa Schock

Brittany Rockenfeller

Robin Stark  
Until 2019 Annual  
Meeting

Larry Palmer

JoAnn Riley, Treasurer

Linda Palmer, Secretary of the Vestry



Contact Us

(973) 729-3136 **Phone**      (973) 729-6584 **Fax**

**E-mail:** ellen.joyce@stmaryssparta.org

rector.dbw@stmaryssparta.org

**WEB ADDRESS:** www.stmaryssparta.org

**Twitter:** @stmaryssparta

**Facebook:** St Mary's Episcopal Church Sparta

