



ST. MARY'S

Episcopal Church

Our church on the corner of
North Horry & West Marion
PO Box 611, Madison, FL 32341
850-973-8338

August 2020 Vol 4

A Monthly Insight into St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Madison, FL



*²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together
in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
Matthew 18:20*

Love from the Senior Warden

What Is a Church?

As I watch what is happening, some of my thoughts are about church, of course. I saw a headline that talked about fall and winter – projecting that things will stay the same. Closed down, separate, cautious. Where does that leave us? We opened the church thinking that the new requirements would just be for a week or two. And here we are weeks, months later.

St. Mary's is a congregation that loves its Sunday morning worship. And "church" is so much more. It is community, it is exploration into who we are as lovers of God, and how God guides our lives. It is a congregation of people who can depend on each other in times of joy and difficulty. And the potential for so much more, such as the significant outreach we provide.

But now, now we are separate. Some come to church, with limited interaction, some attend on zoom (thank you, Dale!), some don't come at all, and some, as before, are unable to participate in community. I posed the question at the July 12 Mission Board meeting: under the current circumstances, what do we do to create community? This question will be discussed during the August meeting.

What keeps coming to my mind is the beginning, when there were no buildings, no organizations, no denominations. It was the love of Jesus, the passion to understand the words he gave us, and doing this in COMMUNITY.

I pose to you the same question. In this new time, it is time for new creativity. How do we create community? Passion for exploring the Word? Exploring how God guides our lives? Supporting each other? Providing outreach? What is a church?

Vicar's Voice by Father Joe

As we continue to deal with the Coronavirus, I believe we will be forced to deal with it for a considerable time, possibly longer than we initially expected. This is new ground for us. St. Mary's has been open for worship for more than a month and we have broadcast the service each Sunday by Zoom. I refer to this as hybrid worship. Our in-church worship count has been about a dozen on average. Our Zoom count has been about 5-7. We have been experiencing data loss on the broadcast but hope we have solved that with an upgrade in our Centurylink service this week. I expect that we'll be using Zoom more for a variety of gatherings if we can iron out the bugs. That could be a silver lining to this pandemic. For those who feel more comfortable worshipping at home, please join the broadcast.

In the 1928 prayer book is a verse for these types of events that was omitted in 1979. "O most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succor. Deliver us we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." Of course, we know where to find heavenly wisdom: keep you Bible close at hand and look to God's holy word in scripture for answers to every ill. Blessings, Joe+

Our Church's Stained Glass

We have had a few question what our stained glass represents. So over the next few months we will go over several pieces at a time, and who dedicated them to the church.

Stained glass has been used for over a thousand years in churches, often referred to as "poor man's bible". The beautiful art pieces are a way to communicate to people the important events of the bible. Stained glass tells a story.

So what is our story?

St. Mary's Stained Glass story

For many years members of St. Mary's discussed installing stained glass windows in the church, after a dear friend Claudia Ayer passed away, she left a bequest to St. Mary's to be used for this purpose. Members dedicated windows in memory of their loved ones and Nate Cutis found a local stain glass artist from Live Oak. He used the colors from the existing windows in the borders and kept them simple to reflect the style of our church. This projected was completed in 2004 and the windows were consecrated by Bishop Hathaway on February 22, 2004.



Descending Dove

Holy Spirit descending on Jesus at his baptism in the River Jordan

Dedicated to the memory of Mary Jane Pfeil 1926-2003



7 DayLilies

Each daylily represents a member of the Curtis-Lamb family: Nate, BJ, Martha, Frank, Leslie, George and Nathan III

In Thanksgiving to the Lord for all Blessings Great & Small Curtis - Lambs



Seagull & Shell

Seagulls in flight represent spirits of Claudia and Clifford; the scallop shell reminds us of the beach, Claudias laughing place.

In loving memory of Clifford B Ayer Jr & Claudia M Ayer

August Calendar



1 Gwen Roebuck
6 Colt King (secretaries son)
11 Julie Pries



15 Kaye and Steve Ersch

Church calendar

9 Mission Board meeting
25 Shepherds Hand clinic



We are always looking for church event photographs. Does anyone have a picture from our reopening? Or the Shepherds Hands soft reopening? If you have any photos, please email to the church secretary at liz@stmarysofmadison.org



Pray from home schedule:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
11am OR 7pm

The bible says when two or more come together there you will find him. During these odd and challenging times, when it's more difficult to come together, we can at least pray together, in our home, at the same time.