



ST. MARY'S

Episcopal Church

May 2020

North Horry & West Marion
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A Monthly Insight into St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Madison, FL

Vol 1



The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Psalm 23:1-3

Love from the Senior Warden

Senior Warden, Bobbi Breo

As each day moves into the next, two questions rise to the top for me. The first is, where are we with God? We love our liturgy. It keeps us grounded, connected. We love God. We love each other. But what we don't do as a congregation is talk about our own experiences with God. Now, during this time of forced isolation, with plenty of space for reflection and communication with God, what's happening?

The second question is how are you? What is happening with you? How are you emotionally? Physically? What is new for you? What is old that no longer serves you?

Really the two questions are so inter-connected. I am hoping to create a way for us to talk about these things. Now is a good time to start. And when this isolation is complete, to keep the conversation going.

Secretary Secrets

Church Secretary, Liz King

I have enjoyed learning how the Episcopal church works, getting to know Father Joe, Bobbi, Kay and Steve.

Many of you do not know me, and I pray one day this self quarantine - social distancing will end so I can meet each of you within the church.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve your church as your Church Secretary and pray we have many years together.



Vicar's Voice

A Note From Father Joe

Lent and early Easter have been difficult times to adjust to as we deal with the coronavirus. To my knowledge, no one in our congregation has contracted the disease, Praise God.

Further, on the bright side, we have discovered Zoom and are imagining the possibilities to use this communication device to further evangelize our St. Mary's mission.

We have also used this time to begin to orient more fully toward the Prayer book and I am looking forward to teaching you how to more fully use the BCP. I am firm in my belief that every Episcopal home should have a copy and know how to use it.

I am very encouraged with our new secretary, Liz King, as she develops tools to help us better communicate, especially the website.

I am prayerful that we will receive the okay to reopen the church this month for services with sensible precautions. When we do reopen, we will try to organize an appropriate celebration of "rebirth" including a spring picnic.

I am pleased to report that our finances are strong through the first three months of the year. If you are able, please keep your pledge up to date by mailing your check to our PO Box 611.

Easter is a time when we focus spiritually on the 40 day witness between resurrection and ascension. Above all, we are overjoyed that He is Risen! Alleluia. Joe+

Episcopal Church Of Women

President, Joanna Booth

ECW meetings were just getting off to a great start with a shortened format when BAM – no church for a while. Trying to navigate the digital world in these circumstances has been difficult for me. My sense is to cancel the May meeting and hope to pick up in July with in-person time together. Please let me know your feelings on this matter either by email or phone.

Holy week brought some creative thought to the cancelled church services. Thanks to Fr. Joe and Linda and Bobbi for helping those that were able to set up Zoom and participate in the online service. As I heard it said many times, “It was better than nothing.” Zoom filled a void. Thanks be to God!

Since Holy Week is traditionally a demanding season for the Altar Guild it seemed something else was needed in addition to online and distant services. Brenda’s garden was stunningly beautiful. It seemed a shame that members would not see it this year so, Bobbi and I and Brenda added symbols of the services we would miss to the table in the garden. Palm Sunday there was a basket of palm crosses to share and frons decorated the area. Maundy Thursday there was a pitcher and basin of water to symbolize foot washing. Good Friday had a wooden cross and black veil. Easter Sunday had the traditional flower cross at the front door of the church and Brenda had set potted lilies in the garden. The thought was that the garden would be a beautiful please to visit, sit and pray or just be in stillness for a time and enjoy the beauty.

Our ever-faithful treasurer, BJ has reminded us of the upcoming UTO in-gathering on May 24. You are welcome to mail in your contributions at any time.

The Secretary position is currently vacant, if you are interested in taking notes at meetings please let me know. I set up an agenda template that can be filled in by written notes or keyed on a laptop. The plan was to make it easy to follow the order of the agenda and speed the meeting and take notes. That part was working well.

And in a final thought I wanted to share this. As unnatural as this time is, it gives us space and time to have a closer walk with God, in stillness and quiet contemplation, without all the business we became used to. Our relationships with those we love can intensify, clarify and bear fruit. Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!!



We are currently working on updating our website and are in search of recent photos. If you have any photos, please email to stmarysofmadison@embarqmail.com

As our state is closed, we are communicating more through email. Contact us, if we do not have your email on file.
stmarysofmadison@embarqmail.com



10 Mother's Day

May Calendar

10 ECW Meeting

10 Missin Board Meeting at 11:30am

20 Birthday: Travis Kinsley

20 C.a.R.E. meeting at Paula Shaws at 5:30pm
Connect and Respond through Evangelism

28 Birthday: Ada Cherp, Rylan Sparkman

Church picnic

We are working on our plans for our annual church picnic. As our state opens back up, we will set a date that is safe for all our congregation and all involved.