

OUTERMOST VOICE

ST. MARY OF THE HARBOR
WHERE THE LAND, THE SEA, AND THE SACRED MEET

Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me. Psalm 139: 1

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The St. Mary’s Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 26, at 11:30 am in Nicholson Hall. Zoom links will be available later in the month.

Summer Worship Schedule

Our traditional summer schedule of Sunday services at both 8 am and 10 am will be in place from July 3 thru September 4.

Searching



An exciting time has begun for St. Mary of the Harbor, and a deeply important one. On the second weekend of May, the Vestry and the Search Committee met together on retreat, led by the Diocesan search consultant, Elinor Horner. And on that weekend, the Vestry—on behalf of the parish—commissioned the Search Committee to lead the parish in its search for the next rector of the parish.

Notice: I said that the Search Committee will *lead* the parish in its search—not carry out the search by itself—because the search for a new rector needs the prayers, support, and work of the entire parish. Unlike an ordinary job search, the search for a rector crucially depends upon the intersecting discernment of several significant bodies: (1) the whole Body of Christ at St. Mary’s; (2) priests who are open to a call to a new ministry; and (3) the Holy Spirit of God, acting as a go-between, inspirer, and connector of you, the parish, and priests seeking a new cure.

Discernment requires soul searching on the part of the parish, as you ask: who have we been; where are we now; and in what direction is the Holy Spirit calling us? Discernment requires soul searching on the part of any priest open to the possibility that s/he may be called to St. Mary’s. And discernment, above all, depends on the discerning work of the Holy Spirit, speaking in the hearts and minds of all parishioners at St. Mary’s, and not just in the hearts and minds of the Search Committee members.

As this work of discernment begins, I urge you to heed, and pray day-by-day, the words of Psalm 139 above. Ask the Holy Spirit to search out your soul, and to reveal to you what you are hearing the Spirit say about the direction St. Mary’s should take in its next chapter of ministry, and what sort of priest would best guide you into your ministry together in the years ahead. And be sure of this. The Holy Spirit will be at work, not just in your discernment, but in the souls of discerning priests you do not yet know. One of them will be your next Rector. Isn’t that exciting!

William W. Rich. Interim Rector

Spring Garden Cleanup



Come and enjoy St. Mary's garden and be sure to thank the parishioners who took the time to spruce it up for the coming season. Clockwise from the front: John Carroll-Yagel, Tim Brown, David Griffiths, Pat Penza, Phil Penza, Scott Yagel.

OCC Chamber Singers



The Outer Cape Chorale Chamber Singers will be performing at St. Mary's on Sunday, June 5, at 5 pm. A capella singing at its finest!

Save the Date: August 6

Planning is under way for the St. Mary's Summer Fair, which is scheduled for Saturday, August 6. Please save the date! Please reach out to our co-chairs Tim Brown (tim@seascaperealty.com) and John Carroll-Yagel (cargell@aol.com) if you can help.

The Senior Warden's Message



Those of us fortunate enough to be on the Outer Cape in springtime are enjoying the full measure of its beauty. Days are growing longer and warmer, the browns and grays of our vistas are turning to shades of green, and short-sleeved shirts, shorts, and sandals are re-emerging from our closets. Although we anticipate these changes every year, they still feel new and most welcome! New and welcome changes are in abundance at St. Mary of the Harbor these days. Our interim priest, the Reverend Bill Rich, has been guiding us through our transition with the benefit of his experience and his calm and patient demeanor; our Vestry continues to work diligently on behalf of the parish; and our spiritual life together is as strong as ever.

The Vestry has been focused on two main tasks: the rectory rental and the rector search process. The rectory will provide workforce housing through September 15, addressing a critical need for our local economy. With our desire to be good neighbors and good stewards of the property at the forefront, a lease with conditions specific to our unique setting has been created and signed. The Vestry is optimistic that this will be a positive experience for all of us.*

On May 14, members of the Vestry and the Search Committee, along with our priest Bill and our Diocesan Search Consultant, Elinor Horner, met at the church for a retreat. The Vestry officially handed over the charge to seek a new rector to the Search Committee, who will communicate with the parish in a variety of ways as the process proceeds. Please include the Search Committee in your prayers as they take on this most important work on behalf of the parish. Know that each of you, whether you are physically present, or connected to St. Mary's from a distance, will have a voice in the process and, together, we will discern God's will for the future of our very special seaside community of faith.

Pat Penza

** Our summer rental of the St. Mary's Rectory for workforce housing has proven newsworthy. While some controversy has ensued, the Vestry has received largely positive responses. Both the Provincetown Independent (<https://provincetownindependent.org/news/2022/05/11/a-priests-home-in-provincetown-may-house-summer-workers>) and the Cape Cod Times (<https://capecodtimes-ma.newsmemory.com?selDate=20220525&goTo=A03&artid=0>) have provided detailed coverage.*

Seeking an Office Administrator

St. Mary's is in search of an experienced office administrator. This is a flexible, 14-hour-a-week position for a thoughtful self-starter who will report to our interim rector. The job requires an absolute commitment to confidentiality and the ability to communicate with parishioners, clients, and customers in a helpful and professional manner. Other requirements include expertise with Microsoft Office; ability to construct complex documents from a range of online sources; proofreading; bank deposits; payroll and invoice processing; working knowledge of Constant Contact; and skill in tracking our parish membership, as well as pledges and contributions. To apply, contact the Reverend William W. Rich, Interim Rector, at WWRich53@protonmail.com.

Directory Access and Updates

If there is a change in your address or phone number, please don't forget to email us at smothoffice@gmail.com. You can also call the church office at 508-487-2622. Church directories are available only to parishioners and only upon request.



“A Few Historical Facts”

In 1956, unattributed parishioners compiled a brief summary of St. Mary's history, from which “A Few Historical Facts” is an extract. The “early years” of the parish are seen as ending in 1939, with the acquisition of “Mornlight,” the Whorf family summer home at 519 Commercial Street as the Vicarage. “Mornlight” is in the news today, serving as workforce housing while St. Mary's searches for its new rector. Editor's notes are in square brackets.

1904

First services held by Rev. Albert E. George in Masonic Hall [2 Masonic Place].

1905

Vested choir of 20 ladies formed.

1907-1921

Rev. James J. Cogan and others served the Mission.

1910-1911

Services held in Star Theater [Shop Therapy—286-88 Commercial].

1911

First Episcopal visitation: Bishop Lawrence

1912

Services held in Universalist Church [236 Commercial].

1913

First ministrations of Diocesan Missionary: Rev. W. W. Love. Services held in Masonic Hall [2 Masonic Place].

1914-1919

Services at 213 Commercial Street [roughly the location of today's Post Office]

1917

Mission Committee Appointed: Warden, Col. Jones; Secretary, Mrs. Hall; Treasurer, Miss Lewis; Other members, Dr. Moffet, Miss Monroe, Mr. Boynton.

1919

Present Church Building acquired. Winter services begun; Mr. Love and Lay-readers.

1922

“Billow-crest” acquired [the present Nicholson Hall]

1924

Rooms over First National Bank [290-92 Commercial Street] occupied in winter.

1926

Services held in Marine Hall [94 Bradford Street, now demolished].

1933

Services held in Church of the Pilgrims (Congregational) [256-58 Commercial Street: today's Red Room]. Rev. Robert W. Nicholson, first full-time priest

1934

“Sandbar” Club [formerly 85 Commercial Street] made into present chancel.

1936

Garden started. Church building remodeled: Consecrated August 26.

1937

“S-4” Memorial Cross erected.

1938-1941

Rev. James DeWolf Perry

1939

“Mornlight” acquired and remodeled to provide the present Vicarage.



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PHOTOS, PLEASE!

If you have photographs of interest to readers of Outermost Voice, please send them to smothoffice@gmail.com.

Next deadline: August 15

OTHER CHURCH NEWS SOURCES

Diocese of Massachusetts
<https://www.diomass.org/news-pubs/diocesan-news>
Episcopal Church News Service
<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org>

From Deacon Charlie:
On Beloved Community



Friends,

The notion of “Beloved Community” has been around since the days of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The King Center, the memorial institution founded to further Dr. King’s goals, explains:

Dr. King's Beloved Community is a global vision in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger, and homelessness will not be tolerated . . . Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.

I’m reading a book by the Right Reverend Marc Andrus, Bishop of California, titled *Brothers in the Beloved Community*, in which Bishop Andrus shares the previously untold story of the friendship between Dr. King and Thich Nhat Hanh.

The day after Dr. King’s assassination in 1968, Thich Nhat Hanh wrote: “I did not sleep last night . . . They killed Martin Luther King. They killed us . . . This morning I have the impression that I cannot bear the loss.”

The preceding year, Dr. King nominated Nhat Hanh for the Nobel Peace Prize, writing: “(He) is a holy man, for he is humble and devout. His ideas for peace would build a monument to ecumenism, to world brotherhood, to humanity.”

The two men bonded over a shared vision of Beloved Community. Following King’s death, Nhat Hanh made it his mission to carry the lineage forward.

They seem so different—one a Christian, one Buddhist; one married, one a monk. They were from different cultures and races with each of their countries at war with the other.

Despite seemingly unscalable walls between them, these world citizens came together to work for justice and building of Beloved Community. May we all find hope and the will to transcend our differences to ensure their work lives on through each one of us.

Peace and All Good,
Deacon Charlie Nichols