

OUTERMOST VOICE

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

From Bishop Gayle:

“... and God has blessed Terry with you”



On February 6, 2022, the Right Reverend Gayle Harris, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts, presided and preached for the final Sunday of Terry Pannell’s fifteen-year rectorship at St. Mary’s. She has graciously permitted us to publish these excerpts from her sermon.

This is a day I have been dreading with great sadness, and yet it is a day of joy. I dreaded it because I love Terry, as you do. But if you truly love someone, you want the best for them. We must give thanks to God for the gift of Terry, for allowing us in this parish and diocese to share life and ministry with Terry for fifteen years.

The lesson from Ecclesiastes reminds us that nothing is permanent in our life—except God and God’s gifts to us.

Terry did not walk in as, and he is not, the Messiah. But rather he is a gift from the Messiah, and agent of the Messiah, ever pointing us to God’s Messiah, Jesus. But the health and success of the ministry for the past fifteen years is also due to this parish community: to those of you here today, to those beyond Provincetown, and to those who have passed on to God. You, the members of this church, have travelled together from a different place and time to now, to this embodiment of the Gospel.

God has blessed you with Terry, and God has blessed Terry with you. Don’t be anxious or seek a quick call for a rector. Take your time to listen and discern. The same God that led Terry to you will, if you are patient and seek God’s wisdom, lead another gifted person here as rector.

+ *Gayle Harris*

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Lent Begins at St. Mary’s

- Ash Wednesday
- March 2
- 12:15 pm—Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
- 4:30-6 pm—Ashes available in the Church

A Rite of Passage



February 6, 2022: the Reverend Terry Pannell, center, returns his church keys to Senior Warden Patricia Penza as the Vestry and Bishop Harris look on. Left to right: Peter Kosewski, David Griffiths, Harry Ellsworth, Anita McGahan, Terry Pannell, Gayle Harris, Pat Penza, Mike Sutilla, Tim Brown, and John Carroll-Yagel.

Directory Access and Updates

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



The Senior Warden's Message



We are all familiar with the adage “the only constant is change.” Yet familiarity with changes, both expected and unanticipated throughout our lives, does not make them easier to bear when the result is a sense of loss. We will surely miss Terry: our priest, companion, and friend for the past fifteen years. For those of us who were present on February 6, either in Provincetown or virtually, Terry’s final service with us was a fitting farewell, with just the right touches of gratitude, humor, and whimsy.

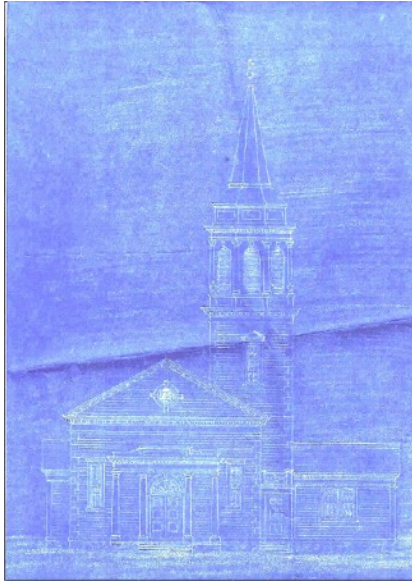
Now, we as a parish turn the page and look to our future. We are so fortunate to have the Reverend Bill Rich joining us as our interim priest on April 1. Bill comes to us with years of experience in shepherding parishes through the transitional phase between the leave-taking of one rector and the call of the next. As we welcome Bill and begin the work that our search for our next rector will require, please know that life at St. Mary’s is humming along as it should.

We have a strong and committed Vestry, whose members are skilled in a variety of ways and willing to share their time and expertise with the parish. We also have many parishioners working behind the scenes, enabling our ministries to continue without disruption. Our staff and deacons remain dedicated to their work among us, and we are grateful for their presence! St. Mary’s various ministries are moving forward, including outreach to the community, opportunities for spiritual growth and healing services, and of course, worship which is enhanced by excellent preaching and gifted musicians. Many volunteers work alongside our staff to ensure the continuity of worship every Sunday.

In this time of change, another constant is revealed: God working in us and through us. Let us continue to work together as we discern God’s call to St. Mary’s next chapter.

—Pat Penza

Imagining St. Mary's, 1930



Discovered in a worn manila file labeled, "Renovation 1936," this misty, 90-year-old blueprint—it is both unsigned and undated—represents an unrealized and largely forgotten vision for St. Mary's. Grand and imposing in the Georgian style, it is a projected renovation of the building that St. Mary's still occupies. The complex was to have been moved ten feet closer to the sea, allowing for the elaborate street door that the design suggests. The bell tower—more than four stories tall—was intended to rise from the approximate location of today's furnace room.

Frederick Waugh's more realistic—and cost effective—plan for a wooden, country-style, English church was realized in 1936 with extraordinary imagination and much volunteer labor.

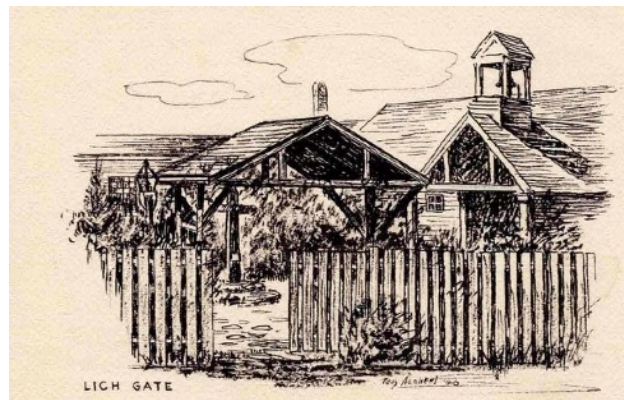
As a fundraising brochure, printed in 1936, reminds us, "The church stands as a spiritual lighthouse to all in distress during the most trying months of the year and is supported through the contributions of individuals."

Introducing the Reverend William W. Rich



The Vestry of St. Mary of the Harbor is pleased to announce that the Reverend Dr. William W. Rich will join us as interim rector beginning April 1, 2022. We welcome him warmly and look forward to worshipping and working together as the Holy Spirit guides us forward.

Bill comes to St. Mary's from Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston, from which he retired after nearly seventeen years in a variety of roles—including interim rector from 2017 to 2019. He grew up in Baltimore and received his BA, magna cum laude, from Williams College. After receiving his MDiv from Yale, he served parishes in the Baltimore area from 1980 to 1987. From 1987 through 1999, he was Chaplain to Goucher College, where he also taught in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Bill also studied in the Psychiatry and Religion Program at Union Theological Seminary, where he completed his PhD in 2002. He has taught pastoral psychotherapists-in-training at the Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute and seminarians at Union Theological Seminary. In the years immediately preceding his arrival at Trinity, Boston, Bill served as the interim rector in three different parishes: St. Paul's, Doylestown, Pennsylvania; Christ Church, Bronxville, New York; and St. David's, Kinnelon, New Jersey. Bill is a resident of Truro.



This 1946 drawing by Tony Ascheri is one of a series of interior and exterior views of St. Mary's by this artist that the parish published as post cards for several decades. Note Frederick Waugh's original open, "saddle back" belfry over the porch.

It's a Wrap: Community Lunches for 2022

For eight Saturdays running, St. Mary's volunteers offered hot, home-made, lunches free of charge to anyone in the Outer Cape community. Cochaired by Mary Jo Avellar and Julia Perry, the community lunches, which the parish first offered in 1991, are a beloved St. Mary's tradition.



Chef Sue Peters unveils her Southwest chicken.



Michele D'Amato and Phil Penza box up salads. Due to COVID restrictions, this year's lunches were to-go only.



2022 community lunches were cochaired by Mary Jo Avellar and Julia Perry.

The Treasurer's Report



As 2021 came to an end, we were thankful for the generosity of our parishioners who pay their pledges and of our supporters who visit us. Though pledge income was down in 2021, the reinstatement of in-person services brought renewed plate income that was a welcome gift. Despite our 2021 Paycheck Protection Program Loan, which enabled us to meet our expenses and our outreach obligations for the year, we ended the year with a deficit of \$15,326.

During 2021, we exceeded our outreach commitment of \$20,904 by donating \$21,546 to community organizations and local persons in need of our assistance. With a gift of \$800, we devoted half of our Thanksgiving collection to Seguimos Adelante, which provides humanitarian support to migrants and asylum-seekers at the southern border. With a gift of \$2000, we also devoted half of our Christmas collection to the Lower Cape Outreach Council, which provides emergency assistance of food, clothing, and financial support to residents of the Lower Cape.

Additional highlights for 2021:

- A new office copier was purchased through a generous donation by a friend of the parish.
- We accomplished our 2022 Stewardship Campaign goals of 70 Pledge Units and \$140,000 in pledges with the final number being 70 units and \$143,580. Thank you for your response to the campaign and for your continuing commitment.
- Donations as gifts totaled \$15,485, while bequests totaled \$10,800. This additional \$26,285 was very useful in meeting our financial obligations.
- Though the Summer Fair was cancelled due to COVID-19, we received fair-related donations amounting to \$5,110. This was from a few large monetary donations and from additional proceeds from the sale of donated jewelry throughout the year.

Looking ahead to 2022, we face the same financial hurdles that we do each year. Knowing our parishioners in both their financial generosity and volunteer support, I am confident that we will meet and hopefully exceed those challenges as in years past. Thank you from myself and the Vestry to everyone for your kind and continued generosity.

—Mike Sutilla



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PHOTOS, PLEASE!

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

Next deadline: May 15

OTHER CHURCH NEWS SOURCES

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

From Deacon Charlie: **Inspired: A Lenten Love Letter to Scripture**



On five Wednesday evenings this Lent, I do hope you'll join us to read and ponder *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. Our online sessions will be on March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6, from 6 to 7:30 pm. Each session will conclude with Night Prayer.

Evans says her intent for this book was for it to be read, wrestled with, debated, and creatively engaged in the context of community “because the Bible invites us to do the same.” The Bible is full of story and song, letters and laws, poetry and proverb.

Stories have the power to ignite the imagination and to teach us something about who we are. Stories often create tensions that make us uncomfortable, but out of that tension, vital questions arise: *Who am I? Who are you? How are we connected? What waits for us around the corner?*

One of my favorite pastors and writers, Nadia Bolz-Weber, says this: “*Inspired* is a love letter to scripture. Evans takes what has been weaponized against so many of us and she beats it into a ploughshare. She shows us how to love the Bible; how to see its flaws, beauty, strength, and spirit at the same time. That’s love. Not worship. Love.”

Each year around this time, we are given the opportunity—the gift, if you will—of a six-week Lenten journey. Let each of us ask how we can deepen our relationship with God over these forty days and how might we encounter God in new and unexpected ways?

Please obtain your own book and then bring your questions, doubts, and imaginations, and join us on Wednesday evening. Please email me at ack4me@comcast.net so that I can include you in the group.

Peace and All Good,
 —*Deacon Charlie Nichols*